

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

January, 1979

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Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

A BEAUTIFUL OCCASION AT BRANCH NO. 4, REDFORD, MICH.

What had been a desire for some years was finally accomplished. In one short week we planned and executed our project. With deep pleasure, and in recognition of their faithfulness and many years of service, our Branch honored their senior members over seventy years of age. Many have been like fathers and mothers to us all. Regretfully, many whom we had wished to honor had gone on to their reward to be with the Lord, and several others are invalids at the present time, unable to venture out.

The Sunday morning service of October 8 was devoted to thanking God for having them with us. It was heartwarming to see the happiness on their faces as they were each pinned with a yellow boutonniere or a yellow and white corsage. Doing the honors were Francine Maisano, Sharon Moraco and Becky Thomas. They were escorted to their seats by Leonard LaCivita and Larry Moraco. We sang "Precious Memories".

Adding to our pleasure was the presence of Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores Thomas; Brother John and Sister Alice Romano; Brother Charles and Sister Eileen Smith of Fort Pierce, Florida, and Brother Silver Criscuolo, along with many of our faithful friends.

Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo read from *Exodus 20th chapter, 12th verse*, "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee". He also read to us the Hymn "Each Step of the Way". Brother Gorie Ciaravino read a short history on each honoree and a special certificate of their baptism was presented to them by Brother Dominic Thomas. Brother Thomas then addressed us and congratulated those being honored on their long and faithful service. He then knelt and offered a beautiful prayer in their behalf. We sang Hymn No. 429, "Faith of our Fathers" and were dismissed in prayer by Brother Charles Smith.

A dinner was prepared for all, with a special table set aside for our honored guests, complete with a centerpiece of fresh flowers and candles. The food was served to them by our young people. Everyone enjoyed the large sheet cake baked for this special occasion. Dennis Bruno photographed them all, each to be presented with pic-



tures upon their completion. Corsages and cake were brought to the shut-ins and they were also photographed. Their names are as follows:

Catherine Benedetto	48 years in the Gospel
Carmella Castelli	55 "
Frances Gerace	44 "
Sarah Lombardo	41 "
Alice Mazade	15 "
Muriel Miller	39 "
Rose Morello	40 "
Providence Palermo	49 "
Rose Valzania	40 "
Vincent Aquilino	51 "
Gaetano Gerace	46 "
Ralph Leet	28 "
Jerome Palermo	49 "
Carlo Saragosa	35 "
Anthony Vicelli	6 "

On October 23rd we held a special meeting with Brother Joseph Lovalvo as our guest speaker. Many of our brothers and sisters from the Detroit area came to hear him. Present also were Brothers Dominic Thomas, Nick Pietrangelo and Gorie Ciaravino. We truly appreciated the effort Brother Lovalvo made to be with us after the strenuous week of meetings he attended at the October conference.

He spoke to us from *II Nephi, chapter 3* on the many

plain and precious things taken from the *Bible*, and how the *Book of Mormon* has given us much knowledge in these areas. How the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* would grow together to the confounding of false doctrines.

Brother Dominic Thomas also spoke briefly, on how he had enjoyed Brother Lovalvo's discourse. It truly was very educational and interesting to us all. Our service was brought to a close with a beautiful original composition sung to us by Brother Larry Champine.

Ann Ciaravino,
Editor of Branch No. 4

It has taken many years of dedication to obtain this type of recognition. As the new year has now begun, let us rededicate ourselves to serve the Lord better in 1979.

The Editor, *Gospel News*

Readers Please Note

The book "My Life With Christ" by Brother Rocco V. Biscotti is now available for sale. Please send \$0.35 plus postage to:

Mr. R. V. Biscotti
6515 Olde York Road
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

Also, the General Church Historian and his assistants have spent considerable time researching records of the General Church. To date, they have not been able to locate Brother W. H. Cadman's Journal of the original charter of the General Church Revelation Book.

If anyone has information regarding these documents, please contact:

Mr. Donald Curry
123 Reed Drive
Jefferson Boro
Clairton, Pennsylvania 15025, OR

Mr. Idris Martin
R.D. No. 1
Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012

Mutual Protection Building Fund

This is a reminder to all Branch and Mission Trustee Chairmen that the premium for coverage under the General Church M. P. B. F. is due during the month of January. The premium is \$100.00 per year and coverage is \$15,000.00. The General Church requires that all Branches and Missions that have their own buildings participate. This is supplemental coverage to the regular fire insurance on your building and will cover losses in excess of those not covered by your regular insurance in the event of loss. Checks should be made payable to:

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST — MPBF
and mailed to:

Anthony Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Rd.
Port St. Lucie, Fla., 33452

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

QUESTION: Why so many divorces in the world today; and how can the members of the Church avoid this great evil?

It is written that there is nothing new under the sun; that history keeps repeating itself over and again. One of the greatest reasons why the ancient Empires of the world had their downfall was IMMORALITY. When the moral standards of an individual, or groups of individuals, or nations begin to plummet downwards, and self-respect begins to wane, then the commandments of the Lord are considered of no value whatsoever. When the clear, moral values decline, that which was once considered good is termed as nonsense; sin is looked upon with favor rather than a degrading element. Divorce has become, as it were, a national pastime. The philosophy is, "If we can't get along, let's get a divorce." The vow "Until death us do part" has little meaning to many.

The Lord warned Israel concerning the impending immoralities and their consequences. He told them, "Defile not yourselves in any of these things; for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you. . . . Ye shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of those abominations; neither any of your own nations, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you. (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled); That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore, shall ye keep Mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the Lord your God." (Lev. 18:24-30)

Having many wives and concubines seemed to be a popular thing among both the Israelites and the Gentiles; putting away the wife (divorce) was a common, everyday affair. But Jesus strongly rebuked those who sought to tempt Him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" He answered them, "Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?' What therefore God hath put together, let not man put asunder." And when they asked Jesus why did Moses allow a writing of divorcement, He answered them, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; BUT FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS NOT SO." Human beings then, because of the hardness of their hearts, turn to divorces and separations from their mates. Sin, dwelling in the minds and hearts of the children of men, motivates them to do the things which are contrary to the will of God. In the *Book of Mormon*, it is written: "But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord, 'This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and his son

Solomon. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before Me,' saith the Lord. Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, 'I the Lord God, will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.' "Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken unto the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be ONE WIFE; and concubines he shall have NONE." "For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before Me;" thus saith the Lord." (Jacob 2:23-28)

The concept of marriage is holy and it was instituted by God. (Gen. 2:24) "Marriage is honourable in all..." (Hebrews 13:4)

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round thy table." (Psalms 128:3) "...let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto her husband." (1st Cor. 2,3)

Today, we have man and woman living together as husband and wife, and yet, not married; The uniting by the clergy is considered meaningless; the marriage vows as passe. Then others will indulge in trial marriages; for a period of time; if it doesn't work, "We'll go our separate ways." This is the New Morality of the times we are living in. And the cliché, "Everybody's doing it" seems to be the rationale whereby marriages are breaking up, of a few years duration or many.

The endeavors to remain together, and adhere to the vows once made are not pursued with diligence nor much care. Unfortunately, the children of these broken marriages are the victims, and suffer most. The efforts to maintain and retain the magic of the first love, and the ecstasy of those romantic early times of marriage are not sought after with the same enthusiasm as months and years go by.

Lack of communication with each other is one of the reasons why marriages begin to flounder. When disagreements arise, some couples do not speak to each other for days, and sometimes, weeks. This is a sign that love is getting cold. Why else would they remain communicationless? "Talk it over" is still good therapy. However, there must be a willingness on the part of both husband and wife to admit their wrong, and a desire to adapt to each other. Love then, is the basis of every successful marriage. Love is the weapon by which all differences are conquered. To help keep a marriage successful is a daily job; it is a "Two-way" street. Husbands and wives have to work together in developing mutual respect and understanding. Physical and spiritual needs must be shared, and, if not altogether understood, the advice of competent Ministers and/or medical persons should be sought.

To the second part of the question, "How can the members of the Church avoid this evil?" I shall endeavor to write some helpful suggestions. To the single and/or unmarried persons: Pray earnestly and sincerely to the Lord, that He will help to select the right mate for you. It is better to remain unmarried than to have an unhappy or broken marriage. Believe completely in God, and have faith that He will provide a proper companion for you. When you think you have found the "right" person to whom you desire to be wed "until death do you part", pray together, and make sure that the primary desire in both your hearts is to serve God all the days of your lives.

Read the Word of God together, for in it you will find a lot of good counsel, especially in the 7th chapter of I Corinthians. Pray that Jesus Christ will guide your lives at all times. True joy and happiness is found in loving each other and, above everything else, loving the Lord. Also, seek the counsel of your Minister.

After marriage, be sure that the line of communication between you is never fouled up nor snarled by small, petty misunderstandings. Pray together at all times; read the word of God together; fast and pray together. Pray together before going to Church that God will bless the services with His Spirit and glory. Be active in Church matters, whereby you may find much gratification, and accomplishment.

Never lose sight of the "First Love". A successful marriage is based upon continuing love. Some few hints to make your marriage an interesting and happy one:

HUSBANDS...

- Don't forget to tell your wife how beautiful she is. (Regularly)
- Don't forget to always open the door for her.
- Don't forget to always be a gentleman to her as you were in your courting days.
- Don't forget to give her a hug and a kiss in the morning when you leave for work, and when you return in the evening.
- Don't forget to compliment her cooking or baking. (Even if it isn't the best)
- Don't forget to spend a lot of time with her.
- Don't forget to go places and do things together.
- Don't forget (if there are children from your marriage) to tell your wife that they are beautiful because they look like her. (She'll love it)
- Don't forget to tell your wife, "I love you" very often.
- Don't forget, never be sloppy in your attire. (She'll respect you for it)

WIVES....

- Don't forget to tell your husband how handsome he is. (Regularly)
- Don't forget, (if he fails to open doors for you), to just stand there until he does.
- Don't forget to be a "lady" to him as you were in the courting days.
- Don't forget to let him find you neatly attired when he comes home from work.
- Don't forget to let him go to work with a hug and a kiss in the morning.
- Don't forget to greet him at the door, likewise when he comes from work at night.
- Don't forget to cook and bake his favorite dishes. (Even if you don't like them)
- Don't forget to compliment him for the little things he does around the house. (Even if he breaks a few things in the doing)
- Don't forget, (if there are children from your marriage), to tell him that they look like him. He'll love it.
- Don't forget to tell him, "I love you" often. (Even if he is getting older)

HUSBANDS and WIVES....The greatest "DON'T FORGET":

- Don't forget to serve God and the Church together

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Joseph Bittinger

Desiring that I might be able to make another trip to Africa to visit Brother Nephi De Mercurio and family, and our Church in Nigeria and Ghana if possible. Having been there several times in the past 24 years and experiencing many inconveniences.

Therefore, I had no desire to make this trip for pleasure or a vacation. I was concerned that physically I might not be able to take all the strain that would be involved in keeping a very busy schedule of activity for about two months in this tropical climate. Like all of us, I continue to grow older, a fact that cannot be ignored. I felt that the trip was necessary, but I wanted some assurance from the Lord that I was not going on my own desire alone. I asked the Brothers and Sisters of Fort Pierce Branch to pray with me about the matter, that God would give me some confirmation if I was to go. Otherwise, I would rather stay at home.

Within the week two or three experiences were given as a confirmation to go, also a letter came from Brother Nephi asking me to come in June if possible, that my visit would be a great spiritual uplift to him and his family who were longing for someone from the Parent Church to come.

Brother E. U. A. Arthur, President of the Church in Nigeria and others of the Priesthood were anxiously waiting for my coming to visit the Church and School.

Brother Nephi is teaching Chemistry in the school and has been very busy this first year.

He is also serving as a permanent Missionary for the Church in Nigeria and Ghana, a great responsibility for any man.

I began to make positive plans to leave and set a tentative date of June 15, 1978 and everything fell in order very nicely.

In the meantime, I received an inquiry from Brother Phil Van Allsburg, Detroit, Michigan, wanting to know if I was planning a trip to Nigeria. Since he was preparing to go there himself to visit Brother Nephi and family, and to assist him in setting up some programs for the School perhaps we could travel together. This we arranged to do.

Our departure from Pittsburgh International Airport, was June 15 at 1:00 p.m. We arrived at Port Harcourt at 9:30 a.m. local time the following day. Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and their two sons were anxiously waiting for us at the airport, but not certain we would arrive, nor of the time. Needless to say, we were extremely happy to see them waiting for us. It was a happy ending and relief of uncertainty for all of us. After greeting each other, we drove to the Presidential Hotel, near the Airport, where we all spent the night.

Early Saturday morning Brother and Sister E. U. A. Arthur with an entourage came by the School Mini Bus to the Hotel to greet us. We ate breakfast together at the hotel before traveling to Abak.

We were very delighted and thankful to God for providing us this opportunity to see and greet our Brothers and Sisters here in Nigeria once more. We are thank-

ful to them, and appreciate the love and respect shown to us by their coming about 90 miles to greet and welcome us back to their country to be their guest for as long as we wished to remain. We arrived at the Mission House at 3:30 p.m., tired but thankful to God for the Brothers and Sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ and for a safe trip.

We were delighted to find Brother Nephi and family all in good health, happy and enjoying the work they are engaged in.

Again, we were thankful to find Brother E. U. A. Arthur and his family all well and active, along with most of the membership in this area.

Sunday 18th we attended Church services at Atai Otoro. I opened the service using a portion of St. John, 15th Chapter, in speaking to the congregation; they held only one service today.

We rested a few days, only taking care of a few matters that required immediate attention. Brothers Nephi and Ebong would work out a schedule of visiting the various Missions by contacting the Elders in charge. We wished to visit as many as possible in the time that we would have.

Brother Nephi was busy in School and only at times would be free to make visits with Brother Ebong and myself. Sister Lorraine would drive the car and take us when Nephi would be unable to go. The rain season having started, many of the roads were already bad in certain areas, and a few Missions we were not permitted to visit because the roads were too bad.

In order to reach some areas without getting the car stuck in a mudhole or other obstacle in the road, only the driver stayed in the car, the rest of us got out and walked for some distance.

The weather was not as hot as it usually is and the nights were cool enough to sleep, thank the Lord this was an advantage for us.

There was a need for some carpenter work to be done, this I intended to take care of, if I could get the material and some tools to work with.

When it was convenient we tried to schedule meetings with two different Branches or Missions each day, meeting with the first one at 8:00 a.m. and the second one at 10 or 11:00 a.m. This gave us time to do work or take care of other matters in the afternoon.

We usually spoke on the Scripture about 45 minutes then gave every one the opportunity to ask questions that they might have in their mind. Many questions were asked by the Elders and members, most of the time we were able to satisfy them with an answer.

They are happy and appreciate a visit to their Station or area by some one from the Parent Church. We usually found some wanting to be prayed for, or to be anointed for some illness. Sometimes 10 or 15 or even more seeking the Lord for relief.

To be continued.

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eller
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Jane Whittaker

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33432

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N6R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gilt Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Year 1978 In Retrospect

The end of the year is a time for reminiscing and summing up, as individuals or, as a Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ was blessed with a happy and auspicious transition from the old to the new when Sister Cora Lee Love was baptized on New Year's Day by Brother Mitchell Edwards at Warren, Ohio Branch.

As the New Year yielded to the constant circling of time, joyful news continued to come, from far and near, of new converts being baptized and received into the fold. On this joyful note, the highlight of the G.M.B.A. Camp-out at Massanetta Springs was the immersion of seven new converts in the beautiful camp lake waters.

Continuing Progress

Additionally edifying to the Church were reports of continuing progress in the various mission fields, in all locations, among the seed of Joseph (North American Indian) as well as among Gentiles.

Brother Joseph Calabrese continues to render a valuable and needed service to the Church in faithfully and ably answering many inquiries about the Church, especially those from foreign countries. Hopefully and prayerfully, this will bring to fruition the establishment of the Church in many countries. We are reminded here of Nephi's remarkable vision of the Church, "... and its numbers were few, ... nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the Saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth..." (1 Nephi 14:12)

Happily, Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen Furitano arrived home safely in Detroit, July 26 after a month's stay in Nigeria. Their presence and activity proved encouraging and cheering to Brother DeMercurio and family, as well as the Nigerian Saints. God bless and sustain Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and children with continuing humility and tenacity in the Lord's work.

Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Philip Val Allsburg also were privileged to journey to Nigeria. Their tour of missionary duty extended from early June to mid August. Their activity brought cheer and revival wherever they went. They experienced extra blessings during their brief stopover in Ghana. The Saints there also were encouraged and strengthened.

Sister Carmella Mazzeo of Lake Worth Branch is presently visiting some of her relatives in Buenos Aires, Argentina and also a cousin of Brother and Sister Milano of Cleveland, Ohio. She will be visiting the little Mission in Cordoba also. God keep her in His care and make her a blessing to many during her two month's stay.

Blessings, Healings, And Experiences

During the past year, many couples have been united in marriage and many children have been blessed. Many blessings, healings and experiences have been reported from locations far and near.

Regrettably, the year 1978 was not always filled with notes of happiness. A number of the Saints, our loved ones, and friends have gone to dwell with their Redeemer forever.

The Pennsylvania District was especially saddened at the passing of five beloved members of the Priesthood namely: Apostle Samuel J. Kirschner, Evangelist Joseph M. Shazer, and Elders Benjamin T. Cherry, Harry E. Robinson and William C. Love (Ohio District).

Let us approach the New Year with faith and hope:

O God! Our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

—Isaac Watts



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Shunammite Woman

Dear Girls and Boys,

We only know this woman as the Shunammite, one who was great. She lived with her husband at Shunem a village which is near Esdraelon. Elisha, the prophet, was seen often passing by their house. One day the Shunammite invited him to eat bread and after that the prophet stopped often.

One day she said to her husband, "I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passes by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall and let us set for him there a bed and a table, and a stool and a candlestick; and it shall be, when he cometh to see us, that he shall turn in hither." Soon the room was ready for Elisha. How blessed they were to have the prophet for a guest.

One day Elisha asked the Shunammite what he could do to repay this kindness. She was not asking for favors to repay her. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, reminded Elisha that the woman did not have a son and her husband was old. Elisha said, "Call her." Elisha told her, "About this time next year you will embrace a son." How happy she and her husband were. The words of the prophet were fulfilled.

Several years passed and the boy went out among the reapers in the field. It would be very warm at the harvest season. The boy cried to his father, "My head, my head!" The father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." His mother held him on her lap until noon. He grew worse and died. She carried him up to Elisha's room and laid him upon the bed. She closed the door and went out. She called to her husband, "Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men and one of the asses that I may run to the man of God and come again."

Elisha saw the woman coming and said to Gehazi, "Yonder is the Shunammite. Run now I pray, to meet her and say, 'Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?'" She answered, "It is well." Elisha knew something was wrong. He told the servant to let her alone. She asked, "Did I desire a son, my Lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" Elisha knew something serious had happened. Elisha arose and followed her. He gave his staff to Gehazi and told him to hurry ahead and place the staff upon the face of the child. When Elisha arrived at the home he went to the room alone and prayed. Then he stretched himself upon the child until his flesh was warm. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." She went into the room, fell at Elisha's feet, bowed herself to the ground and took up her son. What a great miracle!

Later a famine spread over the country of Shunem.

Elisha warned the Shunammite woman to leave her home with her son, and go to the Land of the Philistines. She quickly did as directed. She returned to her home seven years later to find all destroyed. She appeared before the king just at the time Gehazi was relating the great miracle concerning her son. The king said, "Restore all that was hers, from the time she left the land until now." What great faith this woman had and through this she was richly rewarded.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

I expect to pass through this world but but once . . . Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now . . . Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.

20th Anniversary of The Lake Worth M. B. A.

The Lake Worth M.B.A. held a Program and Social on Saturday, October 7, 1978 to celebrate its 20-year anniversary as an organized Local in Lake Worth, Florida.

The night was a night to remember for all of us, young and old, as we unfolded the activities, experiences and blessings of the M.B.A. in Lake Worth for the last 20 years. Sister Carmela Mazzeo, our Charter member, prepared the program which consisted of many solos, duets, and quartets, a tribute to the past and present Presidents from Brother Bill Mazzeo, our first President to Brother Jerry Difede, Jr., our present President. Many beautiful memories were brought to life again.

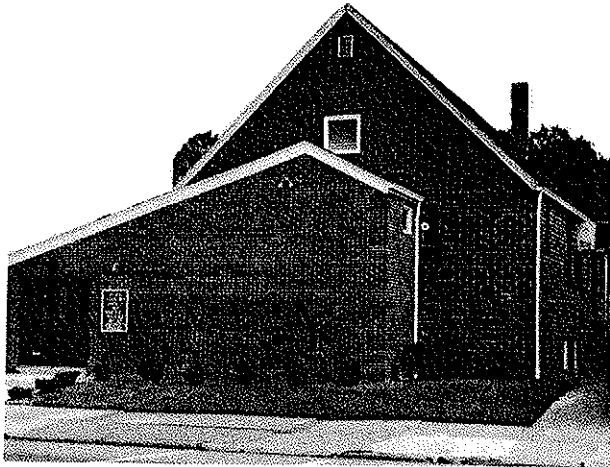
The M.B.A. presented an orchid corsage to Sister Carmela as a small token of our appreciation to her for the wonderful program and the many hours put in to making it so enjoyable. The program was followed by a feast shared by our Brothers and Sisters from Fort Pierce, Miami, Broward and Lake Worth. We thank God for the enthusiasm and support of the young people and old, as well, in making our 20th Anniversary a big success.

Florida Area M. B. A. Event

On Saturday evening, September 30, all the locals in Florida met for an area activity which included two films followed by a social. The films were shown by Brother Eugene Perri which depicted the life of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon in general. These films were very enjoyable and fit in with the current theme of the Lake Worth local. Lake Worth is currently in a series of meetings which include films that cover the entire Book of Mormon. These films have been most informative and educational and have been very well received by our membership. As always when our MBA locals get together it was an enjoyable evening.

Sister Nancy Difede, Editor

Lorain, Ohio Branch Remodels Building Front



It was just another of those long meetings. One might say of it, "Is it necessary to explain all the details that are involved in a package of a remodeling job? Why do we have to sit and listen to all the pros and cons?" The usual comments, "Get it done, and get on with it." But you see, it was not just an ordinary meeting. It was something very special. It had to do with the improvement of God's house, and hold the promise to give comfort, convenience and beauty, to all who come to God's house. Meeting after meeting, winter, spring, summer, fall, to all who come for fasting and prayer, for all who come burdened with cares, problems, joys, sorrows, with a hope in their heart that God will at some point, some moment, as they sit and wait in His house, in His loving kindness will touch them and lift their cares, burdens, pains, sickness, as often is the case.

With these expectations in mind, those who care, serve tirelessly to accomplish their purpose, unselfishly giving of time, substance and of self. So it was that all through the hot summer days, you would see Brother Joseph Calabrese, Brother Frank Nardozi, the Branch trustees, and others busy at work seeing to the completion of each task, watching that nothing would be wasted, that every dollar donated by the Brothers and Sisters was utilized to the greatest extent. All gave their support freely in whatever capacity of service called to support. May God richly bless each and everyone who made the task possible. Now it is done. We are enjoying the results of the long arduous, exhausting task that only those who care can see to its completion. We care because of that very special ingredient Christ placed in our heart, which identifies all His children. "Love." May we continue to cherish this precious gift and nourish it by our continual presence in God's house and by continual loyalty to service.

In God's house we are fed, encouraged by His Word and filled with His Spirit which sustains us in these perilous days. God is in His house all the time waiting patiently for us to reach out to Him.

On November 18, 1978, the Brothers and Sisters met in the church basement for fellowship and to give thanks to God our Father for making the new expansion possible. The Sisters prepared and served a wonderful dinner for the occasion. It was truly a heart warming event to be gathered in unity to give thanks as we all counted our

many blessings spiritually and temporally. The Lorain Branch extends a cordial invitation to all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Marie Caldwell
Lorain Branch Editor

November 1, 1978

Greetings in Christ,

They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. To turn others to righteousness, takes an earnest care, added by love which perseveres until it fulfills the convincing the mind of those who truly want to see the beauty of everlasting joy.

The turning is not complete until they taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusts Him O fear the Lord, you his Saints, for there is no want to them that fear God.

May we provoke one another unto love and good works, thereby win some to righteousness.

After General Church Conference (October 28), Brother Joseph Manes and his wife Rose took me to their home in Youngstown, Ohio. As it is my manner to visit particularly the old and infirm, Monday morning Brother Joe took off work to take me to Rootstown. There we visited with Brother and Sister Richard Jobes, and we were blessed in our sharing of our joy in Christ. Then we visited old Sister Manes who is ill; at this time, she lives with her son Nick. Monday night we went to stay with Brother and Sister Anthony Pusateri. On Tuesday, Sister Jean took me to visit old Sister Santilli, and Sister Teresa Gennaro came along. Then, we went to Sharon, Pennsylvania to visit Brother and Sister Gilliland. It was good to visit these who have kept the faith many years.

That evening, we met at the Youngstown Branch and were blessed. Refreshments were served after the service. Youngstown will always be close to my heart.

On Wednesday morning, Sisters Jean Pusateri and Minnie DePiero took me to Kirtland, in the homes of Brother and Sister Milano and Brother and Sister Elmer Santilli. We attended services at Cleveland, and then Brother and Sister Rocco Biscotti took me to their home. I had not visited Cleveland since 1960. It was good to see some new faces and those we have loved since our youth.

I left for home on Thursday. Upon arriving home, I found that my son Samuel had bought me a plane ticket to go to Tijuana. We left Friday morning. On Saturday we met, with a large attendance. Brother Paul D'Amico spoke on the rent coat of Joseph. It was a wonderful day. Many sick were anointed for healing. On Sunday, we met at San Diego, and again, a sweet spirit prevailed.

I slept at the home of Brother and Sister Pilar Cordova, and Samuel stayed at Brother Louis Pacheco's home. These are humble servants of God. Monday morning we departed for home for some rest.

Christ's reconciling love is timeless. It comes from God the Father. He is the eternal presence. The kingdom of God has come to us through Jesus Christ. In Christ, God's restoring mercy found us so that we might find Him.

In our imperfect nature, we often fail, but God's pure love awakens us to see the error of our ways. "Peace be with you."

Love,
Brother Mark Randy

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**BAPTISM IN NILES, OHIO**

The Niles Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was blessed with a new convert on October 15, 1978. Our new Sister had asked for her baptism at the end of our Wednesday night meeting. She had been searching for a Church for about a year, and one day was looking through the newspaper under Churches and she came across "The Church of Jesus Christ." She came to our afternoon meeting and was very impressed with what she saw. Soon she was attending our Wednesday evening and Sunday services. A few weeks ago she had her three month old baby blessed in the Church. Jeremy Joseph Williams was blessed by Brother Russell Martorano.

Our Sunday service was opened by Brother Joseph Genaro reading from Matthew 28:18-20, and he spoke on the importance of baptism. He also told of a few experiences that happened in the past years. Brother Russell Martorano continued and spoke on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. We then departed to the waters of baptism.

Sister Linda Marie Williams was baptized by Brother Russ Martorano and confirmed by Brother Peter Molinatto. We are very thankful to the Lord for our new Sister and we ask that you Brothers and Sisters might pray for her and her family. Her husband was in a serious motorcycle accident and is not able to work, and Sister Linda must work to support the family.

We truly enjoyed the whole day in the love and Spirit of God. Pray for our Branch that we might continue to grow.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch Editor

BRANCH 1 NEWS

The excitement at Branch 1 in Detroit, Michigan, had all the area Branches wondering what was going on. It started with Roseanne Scolaro (now Sister Roseanne Scolaro).

On August 6, 1978 we dismissed our Sunday School classes to "gather at the river", to baptize Sister Roseanne. Our Sister had called for her baptism the Sunday before. To our joy and surprise we were greeted by two candidates. Laura Mangiapane would also be baptized and have her name written down in glory.

Sister Roseanne was baptized by her father, Brother Anthony Scolaro. She was confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett. Sister Laura Mangiapane was baptized by her grandfather, Brother Nick Pietrangelo, and confirmed by her uncle, Brother Norman Campitelle.

After the baptisms and confirmations, our day had hardly begun. Our building was filled to capacity, as from all over, Brothers, Sisters and friends came to share our happiness.

The meeting which followed was very special, centering around the youth of the Church. Brother Norman Campitelle inspired them to go onward, forward and courageously to do the Lord's will.

At one point Norman Jr. became part of his father's sermon, to teach our young people the importance of placing their values and priorities in the right direction. Needless to say Norman Jr. was left slightly uncomfortable.

Brother Norman took his text from Rev. 22:4, and spoke of the gifts of the Church. He followed by teaching us about the security, and the firm hold of morality, the Gospel adds to our lives.

Brothers Jerry Benyola and Paul Vitto, equally stimulated the minds and hearts of all present, as they followed in speaking. They likewise spoke to us concerning the hard work and devotion that is necessary in serving the Lord. They also stated that we are never alone no matter what the battle may be.

Our meeting was filled with God's Spirit and our joy, we thought, was filled to overflowing. Yet we had no knowledge of the joys still to come.

On August 20, 1978 we again found ourselves at the river. This caught the attention of Brother Dominic Thomas, who immediately came to witness the baptism. He wondered along with all the other area Branches, "What is going on at Branch 1?"

Our new convert was Brother Joe Ignagni. He was baptized by Brother Anthony Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Brother Dominic was invited to speak to the congregation. I'm sure his talk was directed towards the young people, but many of our long-standing members left that day, stating they had learned many things which they had never heard before.

Brother Dominic began by reading from the Book of Mormon, Mosiah 18th Chapter, the re-establishment of Christ's Church.

He reminded us of our responsibilities towards one another. To mourn with those who mourn, and to help both in prayer and with the sharing of one another's burdens.

He read to us and detailed the beliefs of The Church.

Following that we were blessed with the opportunity to hear some of our Brother's experiences leading up to his own baptism into the Church.

Following our Sunday morning meeting, a special evening service was held. Brother Paul Vitto asked the young people present, to express themselves in testimony. Brother Joe Ignagni began first. He gave a truly beautiful testimony, honest and filled with love.

The testimonies that followed were also quite lovely. Included in the testimonies were three dreams, had by Keith Mangiapane, Denise Campitelle and Sister Salina Zaccagnini, which foretold of Brother Joe's baptism into The Church.

As the evening drew to an end we were all left wondering what God had in store for us in the weeks ahead.

Sister Diana Thompson

News from Sterling Heights

Sunday, September 10, was another day of great blessings. A baby, Crystal Cappazoli, was blessed by Brother Paul Whitton, after he had read from the 8th chapter of Moroni, 8th verse through 19 and from Mark 10:13.

Brother Carl Frammolino opened in prayer and was our first speaker of the day. He said if this little child could realize what was happening when she was blessed, she would be a very happy child. He said that as we came here today, we should be very happy to know that we have Jesus in our hearts. Without God, we are nothing. Only God can give life. He has even brought the dead back to life, as Lazarus of old. All power was given to Him by His Father in heaven. Brother Carl read from John 11:20. Jesus said if you will become as a little child, remain faithful, you shall never die. Jesus went to the cross and died for us that we may have eternal life.

If we can feel the depth and the glory in our souls, when the morning of the first resurrection comes, then we have hope of Salvation. You haven't really believed until you become humble. It is essential for us to acknowledge the fact, that only Christ can save us on that last day. If we can take God's hand, and be in the spirit, it is the most beautiful identity we might attain. Do we know our Jesus today, the One who can bring us the reward of eternal life? We must remain in touch with Him every moment, we know not when He will come. There is no sin, no contention, no illness, no death, in that beautiful City of God.

The Champine brothers sang, "Calvary Covers It All."

Jeremy, son of Fred and Nancy Jenkinson, became ill and was anointed. The Elders knelt around him, Brother Louis Vitto offering the prayer. He was then anointed and prayed upon by Brother John Buffa. As the child was wheeled away, a beautiful smile covered his little face, beautiful to behold.

Brother Louis Vitto then said, "We must praise God today, because He lives in our hearts. In the Church, or out, we realize there is a Christ who lives." He read from Romans, Chapter eight, concerning the carnal mind versus the spiritual mind. Christ will be victorious in the end. Outside these doors, there is sin, there is evil. We know there is a life hereafter, we have to make our choice — shall we serve the carnal flesh, or the spiritual, which is Jesus Christ? We can't tell the Lord we are not ready to go, we might cancel our worldly appointments, but we can't cancel that appointment when God comes to take us home. Parents are responsible for their children until they become of the age of accountability.

The meeting was then left open for testimony. Just before the closing song was sung, Priscilla Gianfermi very broken heartedly, asked for her baptism, followed quickly by her sister, Patricia. Today was the birthday of their mother, Helen. What better gift could she have received than the lives of her children given into God's keeping. Our new Sisters were taken to the Detroit river at Belle Isle, and Priscilla was taken into the water by Brother Carl Frammolino, and Patricia, by Brother Louis Vitto. Our visitors today, witnessed about everything that can happen in a meeting and one of these told Brother Louis, they had never met a people like us. They were surprised at what they had seen and heard.

Because of a meeting being held at the Windsor Branch, we went there and our new converts were confirmed, Sister Priscilla by Brother Tony Gerace, and Sister Patricia, by Brother Paul Whitton. Sacrament was administered to them by Brother Louis Vitto. Brother Joe Milantoni spoke to us about his work at the Rex Hotel. He said the Church is an ark of refuge, a place of safety. If we can make Christ paramount in our lives, it is amazing how all things will fit into our life, if it is pleasing to God, from the violent sinner to professing Christians. We must all find something to do in the Church. We have to lift men and women out of the gutters of this life. It is time we fit into the world around us. God has to be instrumental in our attempts to reach people.

Brother Spencer Everett said God expects us, as His children, to bear fruit. We have to guard against being a selective club. We must all share our experiences. We all have different talents, different abilities, and that is the way God planned it. God expects His children to be in harmony. He wants to use us to change people.

On the following Sunday, September 17, several of the Sisters went to Six Nations and because of this, the social for the two converts, was postponed to the 24th.

Brother Louis Vitto began this meeting, stating that we invite the Lord to come into this service, to take the chief seat. We want the Lord to do it all. We owe it all to Him. We sang, "How Great Thou Art", then Brother Norman Campitelli opened in prayer. Brother Louis Vitto then told of the wonderful spirit prevailing in our Branch. He read from the Book of Mormon, and 2nd Chronicles, 2:14. He told of how God spoke to Solomon, and how He used him. With everyone's prayers, collectively, we can move the hand of God.

Sister Hazel Zoltek read two poems written by our new convert, Patti. Sister Patti then testified, telling how she had dreamed she was standing in the water, and her cousin, Sister Salena, was waving to her from the water, but she backed out, saying, "no, no." Then the water receded. Brother Anthony Scolaro, another recent convert from Branch No. 1, told of how everyday, he can feel the prayers of the Saints. Then Sister Priscilla told of how, on the day of her baptism, she wanted to testify, but couldn't get up. She asked God for help. She turned and looked into her mother's eyes, then she heard a voice saying, "You can't leave this building today, without me."

Brother Louis Vitto then called on Sister Denise Rhule, another cousin of the two new Sisters. She told of a dream she had where she saw the girls asking for their baptism, exactly in the order in which it happened.

After the service, refreshments were served and a social period was enjoyed by all.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Sterling Heights Editor

Ordinations in Broward County Mission

It was a beautiful meeting as all in attendance had come to witness the ordinations of Brothers Joe Catone, Sr. and Dennis Moraco to the office of teacher. There were visitors from both Lake Worth and Miami, along with Brother Joe's mother, sister and niece.

Brother James Sheffler opened the meeting in prayer,

and Brother Eugene Perri followed. Brother Perri's sermon was based on the worshipping of idols found in Joshua.

Brother Dennis' feet were washed by Brother Eugene Perri, and he was ordained by Brother Alvin Swanson. Brother Joe's feet were washed by Brother Alvin Swanson, and Brother James Sheffler ordained him.

Our prayers are that God will bless our newly ordained Brothers as they endeavor to further the work of The Church.

Brothers Ordained into Ministry

Brothers and Sisters from several branches gathered together to witness the ordination of Brothers Jesse Carr and Lirio Fallavollitti into the ministry. Branches represented were Greensburg, Roscoe, Aliquippa, McKees Rocks, Glassport, Fredonia, Herndon, Virginia; Youngstown, Ohio; and Lake Worth, Florida.

The morning service began with the blessing of Richele Lynn Markazene, daughter of Rick and Darlene Markazene, who attended the Greensburg Branch, by Brother Paul Gehly. Brother Paul commented on the fact that three-week-old Richelle was smiling so intensely as he took her in his arms to bless her. This was a confirmation of the sweet, peaceful Spirit of God that prevailed throughout the day.

Beautiful and inspiring words were heard as the many elders spoke to us during the course of the day. The morning meeting was opened by Brother Russell Cadman, who read and commented about the Apostle Paul's teachings concerning the ministry. Brother Joseph Bittinger then followed by relating Brother Cadman's remarks to the present day. Brother Bud Martin then described how the ministers are called to be shepherds of the flock and emphasized how the minister's life will change as the flock becomes the center of his life. Brother Paul Gehly summarized the speakers' remarks and set the tone for the service and ordinations that were to take place after lunch.

The afternoon service was opened as Brother Paul Palmieri talked about how the ministers have to give of themselves even as our Lord did. Brother Tony Corrado gave his testimony of his baptism and related the experience concerning his calling into the priesthood.

Brothers Jesse Carr and Lirio Fallavollitti addressed the congregation before their ordinations. Brother Jesse thanked everyone for their prayers. Brother Lirio told how God worked to call him into the priesthood. Brother Lirio's feet were washed by Brother Paul Gehly, and Brother Tony Corrado ordained him. Brother Jesse's feet were washed by Brother John Kendall, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Bittinger.

It was a blessing to see and hear from Brother Tony Todaro, 91 years of age, who has not been able to meet with the Greensburg Brothers and Sisters for many months because of his failing health.

Near the close of the meeting, Brother Alma Nolfi felt to tell an experience he had in 1974 while visiting the Greensburg Branch. At that time, Brother Nolfi saw, in the Spirit, Brother Lirio being ordained into the ministry. This was another confirmation of Brother Lirio's calling.

Our prayers are that the Lord will bless our two new Elders as they dedicate themselves to do God's work.

Arizona-California Spiritual Gathering

On November 11 and 12, 1978, the Arizona and California Saints held a joint meeting on the lovely grounds of Marana Air Park, Arizona. We had long desired to meet together, and this event finally became a reality. Thank God, the weekend proved to be very successful, and from the reaction of many of those who attended, it was very enjoyable.

Brother Robert Watson, President of the Arizona District, was in charge, and through the efforts of all the various committees, everything went very well. Accommodations, meals, finances, recreation, singing, program, seminar, auditorium and refreshment committees all did an excellent job.

There were about 75 people from California who attended, and on Sunday, we numbered about 180. Brother Tom Liberto, President of the California District, and all those who attended from California should be commended for travelling so far to be there. It was good to see so many together for this occasion. We were pleased to have two of our Apostles with us — Brother Joseph Lovalvo from California and Brother Paul D'Amico from Lockport, New York.

Saturday's events started with a welcome and chapel, with Brother Steve Saffron acting as Chaplain. Then there were seminars in the morning and afternoon according to age and interest groups. Our reports were that the seminars were all very enjoyable and that many took part in discussing the various topics. Because the weather was windy and rainy, the large recreation hall provided a good place for many activities, including refreshments and socializing. After supper, we had community singing, with groups from California and Arizona doing a fine job. The campfire was rained out, but most of the Saints gathered in the recreation hall and enjoyed visiting and meeting one another.

On Sunday morning, the Red Lake choir sang, and a number of the Saints from San Carlos sang in English and Apache. Brother Paul D'Amico opened the meeting, speaking on *Psalm 23*, and of many of his experiences in the service. Brother Patsy Marinetti spoke on the life of David who had written this psalm. We also heard from Brothers Otto Henderson, Dick Christman, Tony Picciuto, Jake Christman and Bob Watson. Brother Jake and Brother Paul were both anointed for illness. In spite of affliction, the Brothers' zeal for the Gospel of Jesus Christ was very evident.

All too soon it was time to depart for home. Even though the rooms were good, the meals excellent and the grounds beautiful, it was the presence of the Saints that made it such a wonderful success. Thank God for His many blessings throughout the weekend.

Brother Paul Francione
Camp Director,

Tampa, Florida Branch

The meeting to organize Tampa as a Branch took place on Saturday, September 23, 1978 at 7:00 p.m. We

were happy to have the Saints from the Cape Coral mission attend along with Saints from Ft. Pierce and Lake Worth.

Presiding over the meeting was our District President, Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., assisted by Brother Sam Costerello, Second Counselor. Elections were held and all offices were filled.

It was an added blessing that the Brothers and Sisters visited with us and stayed for the Sunday meeting. Brother Sam spoke on the 11st chapter of John, where Mary anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. Mary and her sister Martha also witnessed the miracle of Jesus raising their brother Lazarus from the dead. After a beautiful testimony meeting, Brother Eugene spoke to the congregation giving us helpful instruction and many words of encouragement.

We look forward to God's continued blessings in the Tampa Branch and pray that we will see many more come to the knowledge of God in this part of His vineyard.

Sister Wendy Risola
Branch Editor

Quincy, Florida Mission

Those of us who formerly met in Chattahoochee have been blessed to move into a beautiful building in Quincy, Florida. On October 29, 1978, we received even a greater blessing as Anita Ann Jefferson, who had been visiting the meetings, requested to be baptized. This day will long be remembered by the Saints here. Our new Sister is the first to receive baptism in Quincy, Florida.

Sister Meredieth M. Martin

Baptisms and Blessings at Roscoe Branch

On November 5, 1978, Brother John Manes from McKees Rocks Branch opened the meeting in prayer. Brother Fred Olexa followed, and the messages delivered by our Brothers was very inspiring.

During the lunch break, Brother James Dutchko expressed the desire to become a servant of our Lord, requesting to be baptized the following Sunday, so that several of our Brothers and Sisters who were visiting at the Herndon Branch in Virginia could be present. After lunch we gathered together for our fellowship meeting, and many testified, expressing the joy that was felt in our hearts because of Brother Jim's decision. He and his wife, Sister Betty, have been faithful in attending the services and have been a great blessing to the Branch for quite sometime.

On November 12, 1978, we had Brother John Olexa with us from Monongahela Branch, who opened the meeting speaking from the 10th Chapter of Acts concerning Cornelius and how he received the Gospel. Brother Fred Olexa followed and God blessed our Brothers in bringing forth His word. During the morning meeting after the opening prayer, Sister Juanita Stanko arose and stated she wanted to be baptized. Sister Juanita has attended the meetings and has been very faithful in helping in any way possible to do her part in the Branch.

At lunch three others expressed their desires to sur-

render themselves to the Lord. We gathered upon the Monongahela River shore and witnessed Robyn Olexa, James Abbot, Juanita Stanko, and James Dutchko, make their covenants with the Lord to serve Him the balance of their days to the best of their ability. Sister Robyn Olexa was baptized by Brother Fred Olexa and confirmed by Brother B. J. Martin. Brother James Abbott was baptized by Brother Fred Olexa and confirmed by Brother John Kendall. Sister Juanita Stanko and Brother James Dutchko were baptized by Brother Kendall with Brother Fred Olexa confirming Brother Dutchko and Brother B. J. Martin confirming Sister Stanko. After being confirmed they were greeted by the Brothers and Sisters and welcomed into the fold, as we sang, "There's A New Name Written Down In Glory." There were many testimonies given and a beautiful day was spent in God's service. Visitors were present from Monongahela, Clairton, and Herndon, Va.

We thank and praise God for all His many blessings. It is beautiful to see men and women continue to look to the Lord and their soul made free. We think of the hymn that we sing, "Worthy The Lamb That Was Slain," which made it all possible. May God help us each to prove faithful and keep our lamps trimmed and burning.

Sister Bertha Bilsky
Roscoe Branch Editor

Baptisms and Blessings at Modesto Branch

We in the Modesto Branch have much to thank God for. Mark Picciuto, Matthew Picciuto, and Rudge Randy gave us reason to praise the Lord's name. These three young men were baptized on Sunday, Sept. 17, 1978. They offer a strong testimony unto the Lord. We had many visitors from all over the California District whom we hold a great love for.

Through the glorious love and grace of God, the young people of the Modesto Branch and all the other California District Branches, have grown very close to one another, but more importantly to Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, October 1, we in the Modesto Branch again felt a portion of God's Spirit. José Armenta, from Mexico, was baptized into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Baptism took place in the morning, and the new convert was able to participate in the ordinances of Sacrament and Feetwashing.

I would also like to say, I don't think our new Brother could have made a wiser and more beautiful decision, than he has just made.

God Bless you,

Sister Pam Cole
Modesto Branch Editor

A Day of Blessings at Monongahela

The Brothers, Sisters and friends of Monongahela received a wonderful blessing Sunday, October 10, 1978 as they entered the church building to learn that Albert Neidermeyer, husband of Sister Harriet Neidermeyer, had asked for his baptism early that week.

Brother Bob Nicklow opened the service speaking on the 5th Chapter of Joshua. He continued by speaking

on the importance of being a steadfast member in the Church, that we should adhere to all the ordinances that the Lord has set before us. He also stated that we should remember that we are to be an example to the world.

As the meeting ended we learned that Elsie Tucker, a faithful attender to Church, had also asked to be baptized.

We all met at the river shore during lunch to witness the baptisms, as Brother Bob Nicklow baptized both converts.

Our afternoon service opened by Brother Albert Neidermeyer being confirmed by Brother John O'Lexa and Sister Elsie Tucker being confirmed by Brother Idris Martin.

There were many wonderful testimonies given by the Saints. Truly a day of blessings for all.

We pray that the Lord will watch over, protect and bless our new members all the days of their lives.

Sister Robin Burns
Assistant Editor,
Monongahela Branch

Celebrated 90th Birthday

Father's Day, June 18, 1978, was celebrated with a surprise birthday-open house at our home for our Dad, Brother Basilio DiMasso (known to many as "Brother Buzzi").

He was called into the Gospel on November 9, 1929 and we want to thank God for giving us Dad for these many years.

We would also like to thank the many Brothers, Sisters, friends and neighbors who came to wish him well and made his birthday a very happy one.

Brother Frank and
Sister Anna DiAntonio

50 Years of Marriage

Evangelist T. Dominic and Sister Mary (Meranto) Bucci of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch observed their golden wedding anniversary on Friday, November 10, 1978. They had been united in marriage by the late Brother Dominic DePiero.

An open house was held in their honor at the Local 1331 Steelworkers Hall in Youngstown.

May God continue to bless Brother Dom and Sister Mary with many more years together.

Sister Annette Corrado
Youngstown Branch Editor

LONG AGO

Long ago, there lived a Man
Who loved us all since time began.
He tried to teach us all to love,
To understand our God above,
To know why there is love and hate,
To know how we can change our fate,
To forgive those who hurt us so,
To love, in equality, both friend and foe.
Yes, He wants us all to understand
The mystery of God's great plan.

THANK YOU, LORD

Thank you for the roses, Lord,
And for the grass so green —
The beauty of a waterfall
And a star's bright gleam.
Thank you for a baby's smile,
A mother's tears of joy —
Things we take for granted, Lord
Not knowing all the while,
That we could lose these precious gifts
You sent us from above.
So thank you for the roses, Lord
and thank you for your love.

Sister Patti Gianfermi

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Amelia Angelina to John and Donna Cristello of Tampa, Florida,

Brian Joseph to Joseph and Deborah Bradshaw of Florida.

● OBITUARIES ●

SUSIE MAREK

Sister Susie Marek of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed from this life on Thursday, October 12, 1978. She was baptized on July 29, 1945 and also served as a Deaconess for many years.

She is survived by her husband, one son, one daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers John Olexa and his son, Fred Olexa.

Sister Marek will be fondly remembered as a faithful Sister and one who never hesitated to bear her testimony.

The GOSPEL NEWS

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PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL TO BROTHER JOHN ROSS

The Pennsylvania District held a farewell meeting for Brother John Ross on Saturday, January 13, 1979. Brothers John Ross and Mike Hildebrand of Herndon, Virginia were scheduled to leave for Nigeria the following week. This would be Brother Hildebrand's first visit to the Branches and Missions in Nigeria. Despite the cold, snowy weather, many Brothers and Sisters from Aliquippa, McKees Rocks, Imperial, Glassport, Greensburg, Monongahela, Roscoe and Vanderbilt were in attendance.

Brother Paul Palmieri, District President, welcomed everyone and gave a brief recap of Brother John's role in the African missionary program during the last several years. Aside from making six previous visits to Africa, Brother John has kept in frequent correspondence with the officers of The Church in Nigeria and Ghana, helping them to keep The Church in good order.

Brother John Griffith then spoke to us, urging us to pray that God would make us "usable", that we in some way might contribute to the growth of The Gospel. Sister Karen Progar then sang, "Amazing Grace". Brother Dick Lawson followed, stating that the best gift we could give Brother Ross and Brother Hildebrand, as well as all the missionaries throughout The Church, was our concentrated, earnest prayers.

On behalf of the Aliquippa Branch, Brother Thomas Ross then presented Brother John with a gift of money to use during his travels. Brother John thanked everyone and asked for our prayers on behalf of him and Brother Hildebrand that God would accompany them on their journey. He also expressed his gratitude to Brothers Mike Hildebrand and Paul Carr of the Herndon, Virginia Mission, who financially made this trip possible. He stated that he and Brother Mike were anxious to see the De Mercurios and the new mission home in which they are now living.

After the close of the farewell meeting, refreshments were served, and the Saints had the opportunity to socialize and say goodbye to Brother John.

As a closing note, Brothers Ross and Hildebrand met at J. F. Kennedy Airport in New York on Tuesday,



On behalf of the Aliquippa Men's Bible Class, Brother Dan Tamburrino presents Brother John with a parting gift.

January 16, 1979 to board a plane for Nigeria. Several Saints from the Atlantic Coast District met them at the airport to bid them farewell. Since that time, we have received word by cablegram that our Brothers have arrived at their destination safely. May God bless them. May they be a great encouragement to the DeMercurios and to the Saints in Nigeria and Ghana.

Sister Dora Rossi

Dear Brethren:

The April General Conference will convene on Friday morning April 20, 1979 at 9:30 A.M. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The Friday sessions will be open to the **PRIESTHOOD & TEACHERS ONLY**. (Please note election of officers will take place Friday evening)

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. Sunday service will start at 10:00 A.M.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you attend basis. The cost will be \$1.50 per meal per person, children 6—12 years will be 75 cents, under 6 years old, free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Joseph Bittinger

(Continued from last issue)

Thursday, June 2nd Brother Phil and I went to the School at 8:00 A.M. with Brother Nephi, where the Principal introduced us to the Students and acquainted them as to who we were. I then spoke briefly to them about the Parent Church and its interest in establishing the Comprehensive Secondary School, that the children of this area may be able to acquire a better education, and be better prepared to face the many problems of the world.

We then toured the School Compound to see the new library and science buildings just completed. The need now is Equipment and Supplies that they will be of use to the Teachers and Students as soon as possible.

Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25 we held a Convention at Umuopara. These were combined services with five Missions represented, the attendance was not as large as we had hoped for. Saturday services were conducted by Brother E. A. Ebong and myself. Sister Lorraine drove the car, Brother Phil also accompanied us. We taught them on anointing and praying for the sick and those that were spiritually weak and in need of prayer. God will hear and answer our prayers if we believe and have faith in Him.

Sunday morning service was opened by Brother Nephi, using *1 John, 5th Chapter*, as his text. In the afternoon service several people gave testimony, thanking God for various blessings He had bestowed upon them. Communion was served. After which we observed the ordinance of feet washing.

We anointed about 15 people during the meeting for affliction or illness. Brother Okeugo, the presiding Elder's wife was very sick and unable to attend the services. We were called to the house to anoint her before the start of the service. These Missions are located in Imo State, about 50 miles distant or more from Abak. We are hoping that Brother Nephi and the Ministry from Atai Otoro, will be able to give more attention and help to these Missions in the future. Not many of the Ministry have the means to travel this distance as often as they would like, to go and help. Have Faith Brethren, do what you can and God will provide a better way, and better day.

Brother E. A. Ebong became our right arm, being our guide, servant and interpreter as he has done over the years, for Brother John Ross and other Brothers who have spent time visiting and assisting with the work of the Church. May God bless him for his faithful service in assisting us and the Church. Since suffering the loss of his beloved wife more than one year ago he has been working under a severe handicap, with three children at home, three staying with relatives at Calabar. The youngest remaining twin baby daughter has been in the hospital for several months, has recovered from her critical illness, but was still being kept in the hospital, when we left Atai Otoro.

Sunday morning, July 2nd, we accompanied Brother Nephi to the School for 9:00 A.M. service, about 250 or 300 Students were present. Brother Nephi offered prayer, I opened the service using Scripture from *1Cor. 3:9-14*,

"Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Nephi followed on the same subject. The Students were very attentive and orderly.

From here we went to Atai Otoro Branch, where Brother Nephi opened the morning service. He spoke to the congregation on bringing up our children correctly, in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Brother E. U. A. Arthur followed speaking along the same line of thought. There was a very nice attendance present, everyone wanting to shake our hand with a smile on their face.

Thank God for good neighbors (other missionaries and school teachers living in the area). Mr. John Garison, Pentecostal Missionary who is Superintendent of the Pentecostal District of Nigeria, graciously volunteered and loaned us a portable Electric Generator, so we could have electric lights in the Mission House during our visit. He also loaned us an electric saw and drill, with other carpenter tools that we needed to make the various items that were needed in the mission house. His generosity and kindness made it possible for us to build several items that were needed vitally to make the house more liveable and convenient for everyone. Thank you very, very much.

Now that we had some tools and plywood had been purchased, I would use any spare time available to me to do the work at hand. Brother Phil helped me at times and did certain things himself.

Sunday, July 9th, we attended morning service at Ikot Ukpang Afaha Obong. The two Sisters, Rose Mary and Kathleen Furitano, Detroit, Michigan, had arrived during the week, and they were with us today. I opened the service using *St. Matt. 17:13-19*, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" I enjoyed speaking to the congregation of about 150 people. We were happy to have Brother and Sister Augustine I. Etukudo present in the meeting with us, he followed me, speaking briefly during the service. This was originally his home Branch, they live in Calabar at the present time.

In the afternoon we visited Ukana Eyop Branch. Brother Nephi opened the service and spoke on Feet-washing, as it was Feetwashing day at this Branch, we all took part with them. This is one of the largest Branches of the Nigerian Church. Apparently they were very happy to have us visit and participate in their service.

During this week we visited and held meetings in eight different Missions with anywhere from 15 to 100 people in attendance. One day Brother E. U. A. Arthur loaned his car and his driver and took us to visit the Eket Division where we had a combined meeting with two Missions with about 140 people present.

Sunday, July 16th, six of us attended service at Calabar, they were Brothers Nephi, Ebong, Phil, myself and Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen, there were about 70 people present. Brother Nephi and myself both took part in the service. We were happy to see Brother and Sister Moses Akpan, also Brother and Sister Augustine I. Etukudo present in this Mission as both families live here in the City. Each Brother spoke briefly during the service.

After the meeting we were invited to the home of Sister Etukudo's mother, where we were served a very nice lunch that we enjoyed very much. From here we

proceeded to the home of Brother and Sister Moses Akpan and family where we found more very delicious food waiting for us. After further appeasing our appetites we spent a short period of time conversing together about the Church and School in Nigeria, and reminiscing of the many years Brother and Sister Akpan had spent in America. Certainly they will be a great asset to the progress of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Comprehensive Secondary School that have been established in the Abak area.

Leaving from here we stopped to visit at the home of Brother E. U. A. Arthur, son Ephraim who was not at home. We visited briefly with his wife and daughter, then returned home to Atai Otoro. Sister Lorraine and the boys stayed at home today as Jared had not been feeling too well.

We enjoyed the day very much with the Brothers and Sisters in Calabar. They are in the process of erecting a new cement block church building, which completely encircles the old building that was in very bad condition and falling down. No doubt Brother Augustine Etukudo will be of great support in building up this Branch of the Church.

A very fine new highway was just recently opened to Calabar, it is approximately 70 miles from Abak. It was not possible to go there by car from this area before except by ferry boat that required two hours in each direction if you were fortunate enough to get aboard with your car. The new highway has brought new life to the city in many ways.

This week would be a very busy time for all of us. For Nephi it is the last week of School for this term. He and Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen have been busy preparing the various examination material needed at the School, in order for the Students to complete their final test. A couple nights they worked until midnight turning out hundreds of copies on a Gestetner Duplicator brought to the Mission House from the School in order to clear up a backlog of needed material.

They were very diligent and deserve much credit in helping Brother Nephi and the School Staff to finish on schedule.

We still had several Missions left to visit and we were trying to get finished with the work at the Mission House. We were scheduled to start for Lagos July 29th. There was much to be done in preparing for the trip to Lagos and Ghana. Sister Lorraine was caught in the center of everything that was going on. But thank the Lord she proved equal to the task and came through wonderfully.

Rose Mary and Kathleen were now preparing to leave for home July 24th.

A three day Convention had been purposed to be held at Atai Otoro before my arrival. Together we set July 21st as the date to start, we decided to use the full time to better acquaint the Ministry, and members of the Church: With the Faith and Belief of the Church in the Apostasy, 1260 years of Dark Ages, The Restoration and Book of Mormon.

The first meeting began Friday morning at 10:00 A.M. we were surprised to see about 500 people attending on this first day. The President Brother E. U. A. Arthur and many of the Ministry from throughout the

area were present. After prayer by a Brother, I proceeded to open the service referring to several Scriptures on the Falling away or Apostasy.

Brother Nephi, and Brother Arthur each followed in turn speaking on this same subject. Again Brother Evangelist Edem A. Ebong was interpreter for us. There was good liberty and freedom of the Spirit in speaking and teaching for the three days of meetings. Restoration became our theme, with the exception of brief periods to permit questions from the audience to be answered. Saturday evening there were about 15 people anointed for various illnesses. There was about the same number in attendance as Friday.

Sunday morning service the building was filled to capacity 1,248 people, some had been here since Friday, sleeping on the church pews at night. Brother Nephi opened the service speaking with much liberty and freedom of the spirit. Brother Arthur and myself followed him in the same line of thought.

(To be continued)

WHAT I'VE FOUND

What I've Found is something grand,
I can walk with Him hand in hand.
What I've found I pray I'll always hold,
and more precious than gold.
What I've found I'll share,
and a testimony I shall bear,
What I've found I'll never give away,
unto the Lord, I have much to repay.
What I've found is kind and is true,
besides all that, you can find It too.

Sister Pam Cole
Modesto Branch Editor

Note of Appreciation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Words cannot express my gratitude for your prayers and kind thoughts of me during my recent illness. It means so much to me to have wonderful Brothers and Sisters throughout the whole Church who care. It has given me more strength and courage. I also thank you for the lovely cards, letters and many phone calls. May God bless you all with His richest blessing. May I please ask you to continue to remember me in your prayers, because I still want to do God's work, as long as He wants me to.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that my recent pamphlet "The Lord Is My Shepherd" is available for purchase. Also, anyone who purchased a pamphlet but has not yet paid, please forward the money to me.

Love To All,
Brother Paul D'Amico

DEDICATION OF AHOME MISSION, SINALOA, MEXICO

The dedication of the Ahome Mission took place on December 9th and 10th, 1978. The church buildings were completed in April of this year, and include the church building and the missionary living quarters. We thank God for His Blessings and the efforts of our Brothers and Sisters who donated their time, effort and funds to make this possible, with a special thanks to our Brothers, Joe Ciarolla, Sam Randy, Joe Randy and Pilar Cordova.

On our arrival at Obregon airport, which is approximately a three hour automobile trip to Ahome, there was a young Mexican man who went into convulsions and then he passed out. Brother V. James Lovalvo prayed for him and the young man came to and settled down. The man's wife thanked our Brother for his prayer. This was just the beginning of God's outpouring of His Spirit on this trip.

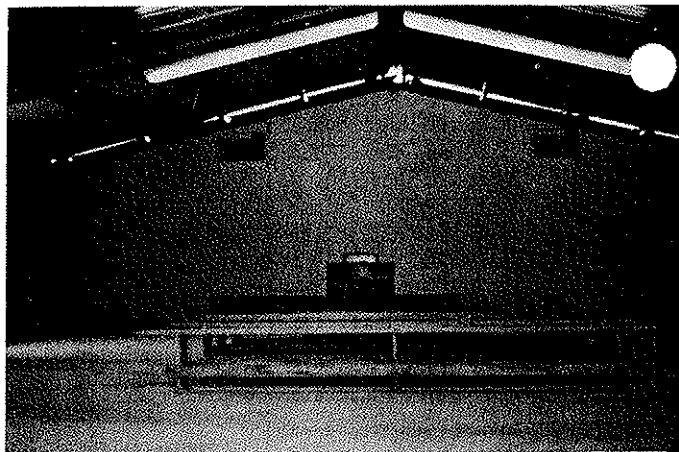
The dedication service was well attended by our Brothers and Sisters from the United States. Also attending service, Antonio and Sarah Ortega, our minister and his wife from Mexico City; Joel Mora, minister from Pedernales, Michoacan; and David and Lupe Barrera, also from Pedernales.

The first service was held on Saturday at 2:00 P.M. Brother Joel Mora opened the service. Brother Edward Perdue followed, relating the early struggle of the Mission at Ahome and the faithful Brothers and Sisters who continue to serve God. Several other Brothers spoke, including Brother Joseph Lovalvo, who related to illness of Brother Eugenio Mora and of his miraculous healing by God. Brother Eugenio is now the Missionary-in-Charge of the Ahome Mission. Brother and Sister Mora then sang a song that Brother Mora had composed while ill in Modesto. A portion of the hymn says, "Lord, You gave me my life, help me use it for Your Glory, since there is no better way."

The Sunday service was well attended, with many visitors. Many songs of praise were sung. A prayer of dedicating the Church to God was offered by Brother Eugenio Mora. Brother Frank Calabrese opened the morning service speaking on *Helaman* 5:6. He was followed by Brother V. James Lovalvo. After the morning service, we went to a beautiful river just out of town, where we witnessed the baptism of three Brothers and two Sisters.

The afternoon service, which began around 4:30 P.M., was dedicated to the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost on our newly baptized Brothers and Sisters. Also, Brother David Barrera was ordained a teacher and Brother Florencio Valdez of Ahome was ordained a deacon. The Spirit of God prevailed in the meeting in song, prayer and speaking of the Glory of the Restored Gospel.

Monday and Tuesday were used in visiting homes. It was such a blessed feeling to walk around the neighborhood of the Mission, visiting homes of the Saints and the neighbors. It is a great honor to a Mexican if you visit him in his home. At each home, we would sing songs, pray for their sick and leave God's Blessing there. We visited our Sister Anaya, widow of our late Brother Ramon, who was our missionary at Ahome. On their property stands the first church, a small building, about



10' by 15'. However, as we gathered in the building and offered prayer, the presence and peace of God overshadowed all.

There were also meetings of instruction for the newly baptized members and ordained officers. There were two more that requested baptism. Again, on Wednesday, we went to the river. While on the shore, Brother Eugenio Mora spoke of the conversion of the Ethiopian man and the power of God rested upon Brother Mora. He urged others to come to Christ and a young woman, wife of Brother Jose Lopes, took off her shoes and came forward to be baptized. We returned to the Church to confirm our newly baptized members and one member was renewed. The meeting was opened for testimony with all the newly baptized members expressing their thanks to God.

Many wonderful things happened, which are too numerous to tell. If you have any doubt of the working of God's Spirit and The Church of Jesus Christ in action, visit our Mission in Mexico. Our Brothers and Sisters in Mexico do not possess much of this world's materials, but they are rich in faith, humility, love and dedication to God. Efren and Gloria Frias, friends of the Church who live in Los Mochis, housed many of our Brothers and Sisters during this trip. Their hospitality is beyond expression and all who entered their home will witness the Love of God felt there.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo, Chairman of the California District Mission Board, was in charge of the dedication service. The California District Mission Board would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support of this work by the General Church officers, all our Brothers and Sisters throughout the Church, and the California District, which has been a never-ending pipeline of support of our missionary effort.

California District Mission Board



THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eller
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Jane Whittaker

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N8R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

CHASTISEMENT

By Guest Editorialist Mark Randy

The most fruitful vine, if not pruned, grows into many fruitless stems. So do the best of persons, if not cut short of their inappropriate desires.

No chastening is joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless, chastening afterwards yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness, if we are willing to hear the corrections of love by those who chasten out of love, who with patience and long suffering warn us. We desire to be at the instructing end, but we must also learn to be instructed and chastened at times to be able to know how it feels to be chastened.

Everyone longs to be understood and cries at the bottom to be accepted. We can never entirely be understood until we learn to understand someone else. We cannot chasten with patience until we know the agony of being found at fault.

It is the weak who are cruel. Gentleness is to be expected only of the strong. Those who do not know fear are not really brave, for bravery is the capacity to confront what can be imagined.

All of us need to be aware that some desires must be pruned, or we will be hindered from doing what is just and good. We can understand others better when we look at them with love, and thus have a desire to help and save them from evil. Most of us never mature. We simply grow older.

What prompted Jesus to forgive an adulteress when witnesses found her in the very act? Do we have such capacity? Yes, we do, if the same understanding love prevails in our heart.

The purpose of life is to matter, to count, to stand for right and to make some difference that we have lived not in vain. Our life will be more meaningful to us and others when we push our brains and hearts to the uttermost of our capacity to achieve some degree of happiness in ourselves and others. Chastening only for the sake of correcting does not always bring fruit of righteousness, any more than to prune the vine by cutting off some branches.

I almost killed the vines once, and I know some who killed some trees by cutting the wrong branches. I learned that some are breathing branches and some are for fruit. Could it be that this is what Paul was telling Timothy when he wrote to him, "Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

A minister dreamed that he was commanded to punish a brother. So he took a hammer and began to hit the victim. When the angel of God came and saw the severe blows with which he was striking, he said, "I told you to punish your brother, not kill him."

Let us prune the vine and be pruned, with love and care, knowing that one is our Lord and we all are brothers. May the peace of God abide with you.

If the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, the love of God is the living of an abundant life.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Naomi, The Mother-In-Law

Dear Girls and Boys,

There are still some stories about women in the scriptures I want to tell you about. The woman this time is Naomi, whose story is written in the *Book of Ruth* in the Old Testament.

Naomi was the wife of Elimelech and the mother of two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. They were Israelites and lived in Bethlehem-Judah. Mahlon married Ruth, a Moabitess and Chilion became the husband of Orpah.

There was a famine in the land of Bethlehem-Judah so Naomi and her family moved into the land of Moab. After living there for about ten years Naomi's husband and sons died. Naomi was left in this strange land with her two daughters-in-law. She had a desire to return to her homeland since the famine was over.

Naomi and her two daughters-in-law started on their journey. Naomi said, "Go, return each to your mother's house, the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead and me. The Lord grant that ye may find rest." Then she kissed them. The girls cried. They said, "We will return with you to your people." But Naomi said she was growing old and insisted they stay. Orpah turned back to Moab. Ruth said, "Intreat me not to leave thee or return from following after thee, for whither thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. Where thou diest I will die and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me and more also if ought but death part thee and me." When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to accompany her, they went on to Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem the people were surprised when they saw Naomi. They asked, "Is this Naomi?" She told them, "Call me not Naomi but Mara (which means bitterness) for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I left with a husband and two sons and now I am returning without them and I am poor."

Ruth was a great comfort to her mother-in-law. She gleaned in the fields of her father-in-law's kinsman, Boaz, to support Naomi. Later Ruth became the wife of Boaz which made Naomi very happy. To them was born a son named Obed. The scripture states this baby became a "restorer" and a "nourisher" in Naomi's old age. Her friends saw how much Ruth loved Naomi and she was better to have her than seven sons. Naomi must have been lovable too, a true mother-in-law.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share with you an experience that was had by our family on January 6, 1978 when our son was ill with the flu. On that night he arose from his bed around midnight with what we thought was convulsions. It was a terrible experience and we had to have the fire rescue squad help us that night.

He was taken to the emergency room and treated and discharged, but the spells continued. We all had to take turns watching him day and night for four days. We didn't get much rest. The Elders anointed him and there was fasting and prayer for him, but the spells continued. We took him to a neurologist who put him in the hospital for some extensive tests. They came up with a few theories, one of which was that it was a form of epilepsy. The doctor wanted to put him on some medication but my companion and I decided against it because of the serious side effects that could come from taking the medication.

He was released from the hospital but the spells continued. My companion and I put the matter in the hands of the Lord. I decided I had to go to the Lord in fasting and prayer for our son. I fasted for a couple of days, and I continued to pray for him. I asked the Lord to heal our son, and that if He saw fit to heal him, that He should show me in some way that our son was healed. Because of his condition, it was not something you could see immediately, so I asked the Lord to show me, or someone else that our son was healed. The boy did not know that I was fasting for him at the time. That weekend was our District Conference. During the Sunday meeting, one of the Brothers was speaking about healings. There was such a beautiful spirit present and something at that time was telling me to have our son anointed right then. We asked to have him anointed. A few of the Elders were standing around our son while we were singing a hymn, Brother Joe Genaro was on the rostrum just looking at our son and I knew he was going to anoint him. Brother Joe came forth off the pulpit just then and proceeded to pray for our son.

The next day, Monday, my son and I were talking and he asked me if he was healed. I told him I felt that he was, but I didn't know for sure yet. I asked him what he thought and he said he thought he was, because Brother Joe anointed him, he had such a warm feeling go all through his body from his head to his toes and after the prayer, Brother Joe hugged him and he felt that warm feeling again. That same night (Monday) our son had a dream that I felt was a confirmation that he was healed, just as I had asked the Lord to show me.

* * *

Dream: I dreamed that I was with Danny Gibson and there was this kid with a long whip. He was talking to Danny, and I was behind them. He called to the rest of his gang and I saw them get up. As I started to run, the boy started to run after me. I jumped over a fence and the boy started beating me with his whip. I didn't feel it hit me. I started to run again and I ran into a room where I saw a man preparing a dish with only a little bit of meat on it. I ran into the next room where I saw Brother Rudy Peterson preparing a large plate with a

lot of fruit and meat and all good things. As I stopped to watch him, I turned and the boy was still chasing me. Brother Rudy said to him, "You can't touch him. He's safe." Then I awoke.

This is the way our son related his dream to us. We want to thank God for His wonderful mercies and His love for us all. Our family wants to thank each of you for your prayers offered to God on our son's behalf. May God bless you all is our prayer.

From Brother and Sister Hufnagle and Family.
Cleveland, Ohio

THE AMERICAN INDIAN

A Minority Of All Minorities

The American Indians are a minority of all minorities in the Western Hemisphere. Despite the fact that the Indians of the United States were nearly annihilated, and a remnant driven from their homeland and placed on barren reservations with great sufferings, poverty, hunger and lack of education, social acceptance. Promises and treaties broken and a Congress that has always been anti-Indian.

It was estimated in the 16th Century that the Indian population in the U.S. territory was over one million. By 1900 the Indian population was brought down to about 240,000. Today, it is about 850,000. In Latin American countries, it is estimated to be well over 30 million.

In the 1870's, the Army adopted a credo, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian." Since 1970, a new spirit emerged among them; they are endeavoring to unite and maintain their identity.

I attended "The Longest Walk" in Washington, August 28, 29, and spoke to several Indian leaders that participated in the walk. Visited the Indian camp outside of Washington and assembled at Washington Monument with the Indians. The Indians left San Francisco in the early part of the year and arrived in Washington in August, after crossing the country.

The purpose of the walk was to let the President, Congress, the American people and the nations of the world know that our government which is based on freedom and advocates human rights, has failed to exercise it towards the Indians.

This land is the choicest land in all the world, but for how long if such conditions continue and with all of the crime, violence, murder, lying and corruption?

Abraham Lincoln in his proclamation said, "That genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon." He believed that the Civil War was the judgment of God upon this nation. America, Awake!

M. B. A. Highlights

NOVEMBER GMBA

by James D. Gibson

Nearly every area of The Church was represented at the gathering of Saints at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Penna. on November 11, 1978. After several minutes of community singing and an opening prayer, Brother Don Ross, GMBA President, called the meeting to order. Among the topics concerning unfinished business was the report given by Brother Ken Staley, Camp Director, on the 1978 GMBA Campout at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Enriched by seven baptisms, wonderful testimony, inspired preaching and a warm spirit of fellowship among those 421 people registered at the camp, the campout was deemed a success.

Other reports included the Book of Mormon and primary lesson plans, which must undergo further editing; church coloring books, of which 5,000 remain to be sold; and paperback Book of Mormon, of which 5,000 were reprinted to meet an overwhelming demand. By a close vote, Massanetta Springs was selected to be 1979's campsite rather than Camp Towanda, the site of the 1977 Campout in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. The campout is scheduled for the week of June 9-16, 1979. Further plans concerning campout, including the selection of Camp Director, will be discussed at the GMBA Activities Committee Meeting to be held in Imperial, Pennsylvania on February 10, 1979.

Reports from the GMBA officers were received and accepted by the congregation. Area presidents representing the Atlantic Coast, California, Florida, Michigan/Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania areas each gave a brief report on the activities and projects held during the past six months in their respective areas. Delegates reports were presented by a beautiful group of "boys and girls" of all ages, and once again were pleasantly received and accepted by the congregation.

The election of officers was held, and those elected (others being reelected) were as follows:

Corresponding Secretary — Sharon Staley
Assistant Editor — Ryan Ross
Auditor — Jerry Valenti, Jr.
Organizer (Pennsylvania) — Robert Nicklow, Jr.
Organizer (Pennsylvania) — David DeLuca
Organizer (Michigan/Ontario) — Gary Carlini

A contribution of \$1,500.00 was made to the General Church and \$300.00 to the Gospel News.

The evening was spent in singing and testimony, and the Spirit of God manifested itself throughout the meeting. Likewise, the Sunday service was well attended and was enjoyed by those who were in attendance. In conclusion, the weekend was a success in that not only was the tedious business completed, but also a spiritual uplift was gained by all.

Our Women Today . . .

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT LADIES UPLIFT CIRCLE MEETING

The California District Ladies Uplift Circle meeting was held in San Diego, California on October 14, 1978. Our opening hymn was "We're Marching to Zion." We were led in prayer by Sister Josephine Dominico. Scripture was read from *1 Kings, Chapter 8*, by Sister Vio Thomas. She was greatly blessed during the scriptural reading.

The District President, Sister Sylvia Curry admonished us to pray and to be quick to forgive when necessary. She requested us to pray for those who have left The Church, as they may not be able to pray for themselves. Then Sister Orletta Liberto was prompted to have *Psalms* 48 read. Sister Pearl Nester read this psalm.

Sister Evelyn Perdue felt we should have a season of prayer, so we knelt as prayers were offered for the sick and afflicted, those who have fallen away, those of the world who are hungry and in need, and for those who do not know Christ.

Testimonies were given, Sister Pearl Nester related of coming to California 25 years ago, a widow with 3 children to raise. Many times she would shake some Sister's hand and find a \$5.00 bill in it. She thanked God and others for helping her through those lean years.

Sister Judy Calabrese told of how she and her husband, Brother Dennis, prayed to be used by God. Then, when they were directed to go to the reservation, she did not think she could go. But she knew it was God's will, and now she feels she has a reason to live as she is being used by God. She told us the Navajo women in the community just need another woman to talk to, and they feel free to talk to the Sisters there. Sister Judy stated the needs of these women make our Sisters there realize how blessed they are.

Words cannot express the faith and dedication Sister Perdue conveyed to us as she related her experiences and testimony.

Our friend Elzena testified it was easy to live your life without God, but since attending Circle, she can see that life with God is a better life.

Sister Karen Elsby closed our morning meeting with prayer. In the afternoon meeting, she told of learning that in Africa, lettuce cannot be grown. She wrote to the Agriculture Department. They sent her three different seeds, and two of those seeds are now growing in Africa. See what one Sister can do!

Reports were given in the afternoon.

1. We donated \$300.00 to Tijuana for blankets.
2. \$200.00 to Red Lake for Thanksgiving or wherever there is a need.
3. We loaned \$300.00 to the Pala Reservation until their grant comes through.
4. Our Circle will send items to Africa for Christmas.

Then Sister Candy and Brother Peter Genaro sang "Let Us Pray, Gladly Pray." Brother Peter gave his

testimony and complimented the Sisters on how they conduct business. He stressed the need for prayer.

Sister Pearl Nester closed in prayer, and we went into our program.

The theme of the program was "His Eye is on the Sparrow." It was brought out how the lowly bird was used in the Bible. If God cared so much for the sparrow, how much more He must care for you and me. God bless you all. Our district circle meeting was led in closing prayer by Sister Joy Krasnasky.

A Tribute

Elsie Cole where are you now?
At Jesus' feet I know you bow.
You had special joy for life,
Though yours was filled with sorrow and strife.
God was first at any cost;
You knew your soul would not be lost.
The promises you made before God and man,
You kept with a smile, though we couldn't understand.
You took so little and gave so much,
To all you met, "A living touch."
You suffered much sorrow, sickness and pain,
But never once did I hear you complain.
So on this sorrowful, sunny day
I'm happy Sister Elsie passed my way.

Love,

Sister Flo Benyola

Reassured

I was baptized into The Church Of Jesus Christ on January 28, 1968. Not long after my baptism, I was concerned over whether the Lord really loved me or not. I had a dream one night that I was fishing in a small hole of water. There were rocks all around it. All of a sudden I found myself in the water. I became very frightened, because I knew I couldn't swim. In this condition, I was not able to help myself in any way. I said, "Oh Lord, if you love me, don't let anything happen to me."

The next thing I knew, I was out of the water. Along side of me to my right, I saw the words, "I Love You," being written in the sand in red letters, as though it was the Blood of Christ. I didn't see anything or anybody, just the words being written there as if they were being burned into the sand letter by letter.

After they were written, I picked them up and put them on as if it were a garment. Then I found myself in a house with a couple of other Sisters. One of them told me my dress was more beautiful than hers. Then I remember looking into a mirror and also seeing how beautiful it was. After this I told the Sisters their garments were very beautiful too. That's all I remember of this dream. I prayed to God that I may always remember that He loves me, and that I may be worthy of His calling by keeping my promise to Him.

Sister Betty Crudup

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

(Continued from November, 1978 Issue)

The apostasy was not an "over-night" affair. Its history spans a few centuries. It slowly, but surely, made its way into the church, creating doubts, fears, and subsequent schisms in the body (church). But, in spite of all the warnings by Jesus and His Apostles, false doctrine, and false teachings crept into the church like a ravaging disease. Satan continued to cast his darts of deception seeking to breach that wall of faith that the disciples of the Lord had so valiantly erected. Paul warned, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science so called; "Which some professing have erred concerning the faith." (1 Tim. 6:20,21) And, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, Knowing of whom thou hast learned them." (2 Tim. 3:13,14) He continued to instruct Timothy to keep faithful and to be aware of the times that were rapidly approaching, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth; men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." 2Tim. 3:1-8

Paul's mention of "the last days" to Timothy is not to be confused as meaning toward the end of the world (or end of time), but rather to the latter part of the great Cycle of Terrestrial (earthly) time. (I will discuss this in a later chapter) If Paul was referring to the last days on earth, why would he exhort Timothy to "turn away from such?" He knew that the "Mystery of iniquity" was already at work in the church. He knew that men would arise in the church who would forget the simple teaching of the Lord, and begin to persuade others to accept their definitions of the Gospel, not realizing that whosoever would break the least of His commandments should be guilty of them all. (James 2:10) Such are called Traitors, high-minded, etc. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4:3,4) To the Colossians he wrote, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Col. 2:8)

Jude, the brother of James, realizing how strongly the powers of evil were working to deceive and destroy the church, wrote, "... it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly con-

tend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. For there are certain men crept in unware, who were of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." (Jude 3,4). He also reminded them in his letter, "But beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit." (Jude 17-19). Along with the Apostles, Jude also knew that the spirit of "falling away" or Apostasy was already growing in the church. Nevertheless, in spite of the exhortations and teachings of these wonderful men of God, the disease of spiritual cancer was eating its way into the Body (church), slowly but surely. As the remarkable guardians of Faith those spiritual "watchmen of Zion", left this world to be with Christ in Paradise, ungodly men, sensual, wolves in sheep's clothing, crept in unawares, and began to change the Ordinances of the Gospel, and the commandments of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to suit their own purposes. (I shall deal with these changes later on.)

One of the great writers of our century, James E. Talmage, writing on the subject of the Apostasy says, "There can be little doubt that the false teachers . . . were professed adherents of the Church, and not outside opponents, inasmuch as they were restrained by the influence and authority of the Apostles, and waited the passing of the authorized leaders as an opportunity to corrupt the Church by evil teachings." (Talmage's The Great Apostasy, page 46). The above writer also quotes certain Historians who ascertained by sincere research, the evils that crept into the Church; to wit; "It will easily be imagined that unity and peace could not reign long in the Church, since it was composed of Jews and Gentiles, who regarded each other with the bitterest aversion. Besides, as the converts to Christianity could not extirpate radically the prejudices which had been formed in their minds by education, and confirmed by time, they brought with them into the bosom of the Church more or less of the errors of their former religions. Thus the seeds of discord and controversy were easily sown, and could not fail to spring up soon into animosities and dissensions, which accordingly broke out and divided the Church." (Moshiem, Ecc. History, Century 1, Part 2; ch 3:11) Another Historian is Quoted, Let us keep in view what that the spirit of the Gospel really is. The simple faith of Christ as the only Saviour of post sinners, and the effectual influences of the Holy Ghost in recovering souls altogether depraved by sin; these are the leading ideas. When the effusion of the Holy Ghost first took place, these things were taught with power; and no sentiments which militated against them could be supported for a moment. As though the prevalence of human corruption and the crafts of Satan, the love of truth was lessened, heresies and various abuses of the gospel appeared; and in estimating them we may form some idea of the declension of true religion toward the end of the first century." (Milner's Church History, Century 1, ch. 15)

Another great historian, Eusebius, citing one of the early writers says, "The same author (Hegesippus)

relating events of the times, also says, that the Church continued until then as a pure and uncorrupt virgin; pure and undefiled; that if there were any who were trying to corrupt the sound standard of the preaching of salvation, they were still then lurking, as it were, in some obscure and dark hole. But when the sacred band of the Apostles had ended their lives in various ways, and the generation of those who had been privileged to listen to the divine Wisdom with their own ears had passed away, then godless error began to take its rise, and form itself through the deceit of those who taught another doctrine; who now also threw off the mask, since none of the Apostles any longer remained, and tried the counter the preaching of the truth by preaching the knowledge which is falsely so called." (Eusebius, Book 3, ch. 32)

Apostasy in a mild form existed in the time of Christ when, "From that time, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him." (*John 6:66*) However, in process of time, it grew into a more organized and united stage, from which there was no return. The wolves in sheep's clothing had entered in not sparing the flock; by their deceptive flatteries, they caused the people to turn from the truth of the pure and simple Gospel unto fables. (Fables being their imaginations to supplant the truth)

Between these "sensual men", who with their oratorical ability and literate articulation persuaded many to follow them, and the severe persecutions (within and without) that took place, the apostasy from the Gospel (Church) increased in leaps and bounds.

PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament showeth his handywork.
Day unto day uttereth speech,
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
There is no speech nor language; their voice is not
Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
And rejoiceth as a strong man to run his course.

His going forth is from the end of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends of it:

And there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever;
The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern his errors?
Cleanse thou me from hidden faults.
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;
Let them not have dominion over me:
Then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from great transgression.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

News from Lorain, Ohio

At our Wednesday night meeting of October 25, Sister Rose Palacios went forward to be anointed, for she was waiting to be admitted into the hospital for a series of tests. As she was going forth, she saw herself, (in a vision), wrapping chains around Richard Portnick and bringing him with her to be anointed and telling him, "Don't be afraid." To her surprise, Richard did come forth to be anointed. He too, was going into the hospital to have an operation on his veins and arteries of the legs. He was quite concerned about the operation on the arteries. (Richard Portnick is the companion of our Sister Alice Portnick and is also of Jewish descent.

We give thanks unto God for both have gone into the hospital. Sister Rose's tests have all been proven negative and Richard had his veins stripped, but the doctor said the operation on his arteries was no longer necessary. God truly takes care of His people.

On Sunday, October 29, Brother Frank Altomare opened our meeting. He was speaking of our offerings unto God. Is our all on the altar of sacrifice laid? He also stated how beautiful Heaven must be, and that wouldn't it be awful if we walked into a dark room. Then the words of the Lord came forth as follows, "Blessed are my people this morning if they hearken unto the words that are coming forth. These words are truth and they shall be true at the last day. If my people will not leave the sins of this world, the doors will be closed. Blessed are those this morning, unto my sheep this morning, unto my lambs, that they try to serve me and hang onto me. This morning I will bless them. I will bless those, for such is the kingdom of God, thus saith the Lord, that they're so white from the things of this world. Come unto me this morning that I will open the heavens." (All the words of the Lord were taken from tape recordings.)

As the meeting continued, we had five Sisters come forth to be anointed. At this time, Sister Rose Palacios saw the hand of the Lord. First, above these Sisters and then above the Brothers and Sisters. At that time, Brother Frank Altomare spoke under the spirit, "God is here". There were also several other experiences given to confirm the hand of God.

Since these anointings, we've had Sister Iva Davis testify of how the Lord helped her with her illness and Sister Frances Rabold testify of how the fever her baby had that day, disappeared by that night.

Surely the hand of the Lord is upon His people.

I thank God for this wonderful Church and pray that He will continually bless all my Brothers and Sisters.

Sister Iva Davis

Sterling Heights Ladies Circle Honor Retiree

On December 5, 1978, we, the Sisters of the Sterling Heights Ladies Circle, held a retirement dinner in honor of our dear Sister Hazel Zotek. Sister Hazel retired from Chas. A. Strelinger Co. after 25½ years of service. The

dinner was very nice and was well attended, with some of our oldest Sisters and some of our teenagers represented.

The Sisters presented Sister Hazel with a beautiful family Bible and a Bible stand. Sister Hazel has been a member of The Church of Jesus Christ for 13 years. She has shown her faithfulness and lives the life of a true member of The Church. She has shown her faithfulness even in times of sorrow and sickness, as well as in times of joy. Many times she has asked the Brothers and Sisters to pray for those she knew were in need, thus showing her love for others.

So now, our prayers are that God would continue to be with our Sister and that she would spend many more wonderful years in the service of the Lord.

Sister Grace Visconti,
Assistant Editor

Ohio District Spiritual Meeting Held at Erie

The beautiful Spirit of the Lord was felt Sunday evening, September 24, when the Saints of the District met and partook of the blessings that prevailed.

Brother T. D. Bucci led the singing, then commented, "We should preach the Gospel to the lost and dying souls of men." The young people then sang, "Oh! The Gospel Restored" and, "Longing for the Gathering." Brother Joe Calabrese stressed that we should all "Tune ourselves into the Spirit of God."

The meeting was opened by singing "There shall be Showers of Blessings." Prayer was offered by Brother Joe Gennaro. Brother Russell Martorano brought forth the message, "There is hope in Jesus Christ, if you bring your burdens to Him." These comforting words are from the Second Chapter of Mosiah. Brother Vince Gibson spoke of King Benjamin being a hero of faith and how God provided. Brother Harold Burge continued by expressing, "We do not need a prayer tower to reach God."

We enjoyed testimonies and a special prayer for the strengthening of our youth was offered by Brother Bucci. The Spirit of God fell upon a number of the young people and hands were laid upon them for strength to become better witnesses and the sick and afflicted were anointed also.

Sister Sarah Mollica experienced a vision wherein she saw two white doves circling the priesthood.

It was very hard to close the meeting as God's blessings could be felt in the speaking of His word and in songs of praise.

Our Mission greatly appreciates all the visitors and may God continue to bless the Saints.

Sister Bernice Burge
Mission Editor

Rochester Branch News

The Rochester, New York Mission was blessed on November 5, 1978 to have Brother and Sister Vince Gibson from Cleveland, Ohio visit with us.

Brother Gibson chose for his text, *John 4:35* "... There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? ... Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." He stated that we are all missionaries by giving our testimony of Jesus Christ, and that we shouldn't leave for tomorrow what we can do today. There's no greater calling than to be called a Saint of Latter Days. We are all saved through the grace of God and we are all sons and daughters of God.

We sang "Work for the Night is Coming", and Brother Ansel D'Amico, the next speaker, commented on the same subject.

We had a season of testimonies and Sacrament was administered. A wonderful spirit prevailed throughout the meeting and God's blessings were felt by all. It's good to be a Saint of Latter Days.

Carmella D'Amico
Branch Editor

Thanksgiving at San Carlos, Arizona

The night before Thanksgiving about 55 of the Brothers and Sisters along with their families from San Carlos, met in the Mission Sunday School rooms to have a Holiday dinner.

The Sisters at San Carlos prepared the turkeys, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, home made cranberry sauce, and just about anything you could mention. Many recipes for the squash that grew in the Mission garden were also prepared. The meal was very delicious and was served to everyone in cafeteria style.

We were privileged to have Brother Joe and Sister Paulette Griffith and their two children with us. The Griffiths' lived and labored in San Carlos for over eight years. They have moved to Chandler, Arizona, during this past summer, 1978. The Griffiths' were a great help to the Mission, and they are missed very much by all of the members.

The food was wonderful, the spirit of Thanksgiving was warm throughout the entire evening, so, not having anything planned in particular, we sat around the tables for some time speaking of the good things of the past and the present. We had a thought of our forefathers, the Pilgrims, how they had gathered for the great feast in the second winter in the New World.

Could we reflect back for a moment? Should we not consider ourselves a blessed people to be able to live in a great country like America? Along with all the blessings of freedom and from the land, God sent His Gospel back to earth about 150 years ago. We need to always give thanks for this great event of the Restoration.

May we always keep the spirit of Thanksgiving in our hearts each day and always keep the commandments of God. As Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Remember us in our works here at San Carlos, that we may always have His Spirit with us. All our love from the San Carlos Apache Mission.

Brother Emmett Dale
Editor

Baptism at North Edgecomb, Maine

On Sunday, November 5, 1978, Sister Kathleen Alberta Cressey's prayers were answered, as she had earlier petitioned God to show her the true Church.

The previous Sunday, Sister Kathleen heard a voice saying, "Come, come," but she hesitated to get up. During that week, she prayed that God would guide her. On Sunday, she again heard the voice as it beckoned, "Come to the waters." She stood up and in her testimony, she asked to be baptized.

While the Saints were gathered in prayer at the water's edge, I witnessed a ball of fire from heaven come down upon Brother Richard Onorato who later performed the baptism and confirmation on our new Sister.

How wonderful God is to manifest Himself to us.

Sister Marie Perello
North Edgecomb, Maine

Baptism at Detroit Branch No. 3

Branch 3 was blessed with a new convert on August 13. Brother Daniel Andruccioli asked for his baptism following the morning service. He was baptized that evening by Brother Daniel Parravano. Brother Daniel was confirmed at an Area M.B.A. meeting at Branch 2. Brother Anthony Lovalvo offered prayer before Brother Frank Vitto confirmed our new Brother. Among the many happy faces that day, the brightest seemed to be on the grandfathers, Brother William Andruccioli and Brother Anthony Molisani.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Richelle Lynn to Rick and Darlene Markazene of Greensburg, Pennsylvania;

Maria Denise to Michael and Josephine McLennan of Detroit, Michigan;

David Anthony to David and Debbie Coppa of Midland, Michigan;

Jennifer Ann to John and Janice Huttenberger of Edison, New Jersey;

Larisa Lyn to Arthur and Bonnie Landrey of Phoenix, Arizona.

— WEDDINGS —

GEHLY — HARGNETT

Mr. Timothy David Gehly and Miss Lisa Carol Hargnett exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, November 18, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by the father of the groom, Brother Paul Gehly. Musical selections were presented by Brother Joseph Saeli and Sister Paula McCartney, accompanied by Sister Erma Draskovich at the organ.

● OBITUARIES ●

ELSIE COLE

Sister Elsie Cole passed on to her reward on December 1, 1978. She was a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on November 24, 1922 and was baptized into The Church on August 29, 1954.

She is survived by her husband, nine children and five grandchildren.

Brother Harry Marshall conducted the funeral services.

ANDREW SABO

Mr. Andrew Sabo, beloved husband of Sister Elizabeth Sabo of the Hopelawn Branch passed away on December 27, 1978 after a long illness. His wife, Sister Elizabeth, was at his bedside throughout his illness.

He is survived by his wife, his daughter, Sister Janet Buffa of Saline, Michigan and a granddaughter Lynnette.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Joseph Perri and August D'Orazio.

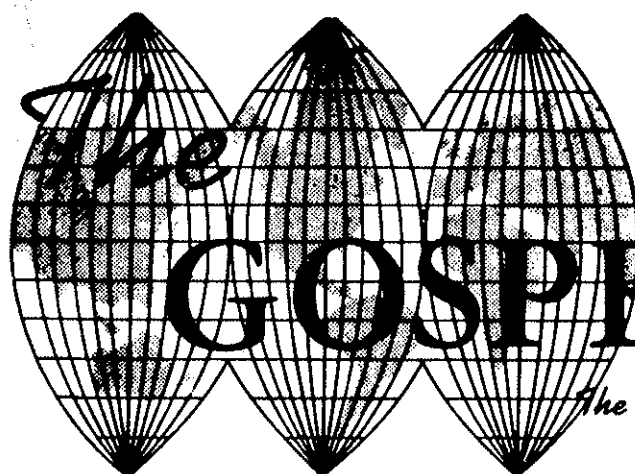
He will be greatly missed by his family and those who knew him.

RICHARD ISAAC

Brother Richard Isaac, former Chief Councillor of the Six Nations Reservation Mission passed away very peacefully to his reward on December 7, 1978. He was born on December 20, 1902. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ on November 29, 1944, by Brother Clifford Burgess.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Georgina Miller Isaac, two brothers, three sisters and a host of relatives.

The services were officiated by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and Gerald Benyola. He will be greatly missed by everyone.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

(USPS 223-480)

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IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

I have been asked to write something on the following scripture: "... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (*Matthew 4:4*)

The above saying originated many centuries before it was re-iterated by Jesus Christ. The Lord God Jehovah is reminding the House of Israel that His word shall suffice to keep them alive. That is to say, by keeping His commandments, they would live, temporally and spiritually. He said to them, through Moses, "All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may LIVE, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. And thou shall remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, to know what was in thy heart, whether thou wouldst keep His commandments, or not. And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that MAN DOTN NOT LIVE BY BREAD ONLY, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LORD DOTN MAN LIVE." (*Deuteronomy, 8:1-3*)

Bread is used in the above scriptures figuratively, not literally. The Lord reminded Israel that, if they will trust Him, they will prosper in every way. For forty years, their raiment did not wax old upon them, neither did their feet swell. (*Deut. 8:4*) If they would keep His commandments and walk in His ways, He would bring them to a "... good land, a land of brooks and water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills: a land of wheat and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates: a land of oil olive, and honey: a land where thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." (*Deut. 8:7-9*)

He warned them however that, while they would prosper in that "good land", they must not forget the "Lord thy God". As long as they would walk in His paths and abide by His commandments, they would en-

joy the fruits of their labours and increase in number and in spirit. But, the Lord said unto them, "And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied, then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage: Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water: who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint: who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at the latter end: And thou say in thy heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth . . . And if it shall be that thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish." (*Deut. 8:13-19*)

It is quite evident that God is very plain in His speech that Man must rely upon Him for the very things he needs; that, in order to enjoy food, raiment, and shelter, he must keep the commandments of the Lord. But, when the heart of man is lifted up in pride, rationalizing within himself that everything he has accumulated and

CONFERENCE NOTICE

The April General Church Conference will convene on FRIDAY MORNING, April 20, 1979 at 9:30 A.M. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The FRIDAY sessions will be open to the PRIESTHOOD and TEACHERS only.

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday Service will be open to all. Sunday Service will start at 10:00 A.M.

Note:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay as you attend basis. The cost will be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be \$.75; children under 6 years are Free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

ALL ARE WELCOME

amassed is only through his own efforts and abilities; and forgets that there are other more important things in his life than amassing earthly things; and forgets the Lord his God; that His word must be pre-eminent in his life, all that he has could perish.

What could be more important than the salvation of one's soul? There is nothing in this world that can compare with the saving of one's soul; neither fame nor fortune; not the amassing of wealth, nor the achieving of professional heights. It is written that we must seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all other things will be added unto us.

A very good example is the parable of the man who thought to pull down his barns and build greater ones in order to store all his goods and fruits; and then relax and enjoy his wealth, rest and be merry the rest of his life. But, the Lord reminded him that his soul could be taken that very night, and who would benefit from the things he had provided? The Lord Jesus ended the parable by saying, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Throughout the scriptures, is brought to the attention of everyone that it is needful to keep the commandments of Our Lord; to have an eye single to His glory, and then the things one needs (not wants) will be supplied. The most important thing is to remember Him and walk in His ways. There is nothing wrong with accumulating wealth if one has the desire to share some of it with the poor and needy, and share it for the work of the Lord in seeking ways and means to bring souls unto Him, and acknowledge that without God it could not have happened. Of course there are wicked and evil men who have amassed fortunes, but, what good will it do them when they face their God? What good will it do them when they are denied a place in the Paradise of God? To those who would hearken to the word of God, it is written, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (*Matt. 6:19,20*)

In the temptations of Jesus, the devil sought to confuse the Lord by saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus answered him saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (*Mat. 4:3,4*) Satan struck at a time when Jesus had just finished fasting for forty days. He thought to make Jesus betray Himself because of His hunger, not realizing that Christ had come to the earth to obey every commandment of His Father. Or if he knew that the Lord had come to keep the Father's word, he nonetheless tried to deceive Him. So it is with everyone who is trying to serve the Master; Satan will endeavor to deceive the very best by promises of wealth and fame; by laying snares before the unwary, to the end that, perhaps they will try to change the "stones" of intangible qualities, of illusive materials, of unreachable goals, of phantoms, and fantasies, into "bread" of reality, and riches, and social positions, and fame. What a horrible awakening there is for those whose minds are set upon the "bread" of this world and not upon the Word of God. They will find to their sorrow that, in the final analyses,

their bread will crumble; that they have feasted upon ashes; that their treasures have been moth-eaten and stolen by thieves. The prophet Isaiah once cried out, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not Bread." (*Isaiah 55:1,2*)

One of the many drives in human beings is the reaching out for impossible dreams. Some get to achieve their aims, some do not. In the bustle and hustle of life, many get caught up in the maelstrom of avarice and greed, forgetting that the chronological span of life is not very long, and, although they might reach their goals, what have they truly accomplished in comparison to eternity and the salvation of their souls? If one would exert the same amount of energy and effort in seeking to keep the commandments of the Lord as one does in the material things, the joy would be unspeakable and full of glory: one would truly know the heights and depths of real living.

Jesus once said, "... Moses verily, verily gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." Then said they unto Him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread." And Jesus said unto them, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." (*John 6:31-35*)

What beautiful words that fell from the Master's lips; If one obeys His commandments, and takes upon himself to be a servant of Jesus Christ, there is His solemn promise that he should never hunger, whether it is naturally or spiritually; nor thirst again, for the waters of life that flow from the Lord are like a fountain of living waters within his soul. Though one must labor and endeavor to have food, shelter, and a few necessities of life, it is far better to attempt to reach out for the Bread of Life, Jesus Our Lord first, and then He will provide the things we need. All He asks is that we give our hearts (our service) to Him gladly and completely, and He will supply our every need.

Trust and obey for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to Trust and Obey.

The secret, if it is one, is to eat of the bread of Life, Jesus, and the bread of this earth, food, shelter, clothing, etc. will be well supplied by the Lord.

—:—

TRUE GREATNESS

A man is as great as the dreams he dreams,
As great as the love he bears;
As great as the values he redeems,
And the happiness he shares.
A man is as great as the thoughts he thinks,
As the worth he has attained;
As the fountains at which his spirit drinks
And the insight he has gained.
A man is as great as the truth he speaks,
As great as the help he gives,
As great as the destiny he seeks,
As great as the life he lives.

—C. E. Flynn

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Joseph Bittinger

(Continued from last issue)

The Convention now past, many expressed themselves as being very happy and pleased with the success of the function, the fact that so many came and participated was really more than had been expected during the entire three days of meetings.

Brothers E. U. A. Arthur, E. A. Ebong, Nephi De Mercurio and the Ministry throughout the area were elated and happy. Elders from outlying Districts requested that Conventions be held in their areas as soon as feasible. They were given assurance that their requests would be considered and looked into by the Centre.

Monday 24th, Nephi and Lorraine left at 4:30 a.m. to take Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen to Port Harcourt Airport, they were leaving for home in Detroit, Michigan; their presence here would be missed by everyone.

Brother George F. Arthur loaned his car and driver and took Brothers Ebong, Phil, and myself to Ikot Abasi, Eket, where we held a combined meeting of the Missions in that area. We were delighted to have about 140 people in attendance at this Monday morning meeting. I opened the service and spoke to them with liberty and freedom of the Holy Spirit.

It is unfortunate that we have such a small amount of time to spend with such nice audiences in these outlying areas of the Church. I pray there is a better day for those areas in the near future.

Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. we met at Ikot Obom, about 100 people attended. Brother Nephi opened the service and spoke to the congregation. I followed him in speaking, this is one of the larger Branches in this area.

We had the pleasure of meeting Chief Sampson U. Idiong, an elderly gentleman and Brother in the Church. I believe he is a Paramount Ruler. We visited in his home briefly and met his son who is attending the University in Baton Rouge, La., U.S.A.

Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. we met with Ikot Obong, with about 80 people present. I was in charge of the service. We were greeted with happiness by the people everywhere we visited their missions.

At 10:00 a.m. we met Ikot Obong, with about 50 people present again, I had charge of the service. This completes our schedule of visiting the missions as we had planned. We felt to thank and praise God that He had given us both natural and Spiritual strength to successfully conclude another visit with our Brothers and Sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ in the Abak and surrounding area. It was raining very heavy.

Thursday we had a meeting with all the Ministry that could be present of the entire Church, we counseled them on a number of matters that they might have unity of faith in the Church.

After the close of the meeting they gave Brother Phil and I both, a going away gift as a token of their love and appreciation of our visit with them. We in return were very thankful to them and appreciated their exhibition of brotherly love and hospitality through

the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We shall always remember you, the Ministry and Church, to God in our prayers.

We finished up the carpenter work in the mission house in the afternoon. I wish to thank all who assisted me with this work at various times, Nephi, Jr., Jared, Ebong and Phil.

Nephi and Lorraine have been busy day after day running to and from trying to get everything in order that they need to be able to travel to Lagos and Ghana.

Sister Arthur came to the house early this Saturday morning to greet us before we would leave. The car was loaded with all our luggage, also two containers of petrol were loaded on the top carrier in case of emergency. At 7:30 a.m. as we were leaving from the Mission House, I felt somewhat sad as I greeted Brother Ebong and a few others with a departing handshake. I noticed the look on their faces were not happy as the car pulled away. We arrived at the Plaza Hotel, Benin City at 3:30 p.m. Sister Lorraine had written ahead for Reservations for us.

We departed at 7:00 a.m. Sunday, in traveling we had some very good highway, but we had much more that was very badly broken up and dangerous traveling. Perhaps 30 miles out of Lagos we got in a traffic jam and for over two hours did not move at all. We were told this is almost a daily occurrence. We were late arriving 5:30 p.m. at S. I. M. Guest House, Yaba, Lagos.

Brother A. E. Etem and several other Brothers came to visit with us and remained until about 9:00 p.m. talking with us. Brother Etem is Presiding Elder of Mushin Mission, Lagos. He agreed to be our guide to get us around in the City, to find the places we needed to go to get Visas and etc.

He came Monday morning, we left at 6:00 a.m. for Lagos trying to avoid some of the disorderly rush of traffic. It required three days to complete our business transactions. This gave us three evenings to hold meetings with the Mushin Mission, Brothers and Sisters. In the evening Brothers Nephi, A. E. Etem, Phil and myself went to the meeting. They meet in one room of a school building that has no electric lighting. About 20 people were present, our greeting each other were mutual and they were happy to have us visit and speak to them. We were glad for the opportunity to meet with these Brothers and Sisters for the first time.

Brother Nephi opened the service and spoke to those assembled, I followed him speaking briefly. Sister Lorraine tired from driving and battling traffic during the day, stayed at the Hotel with the boys to rest.

Tuesday morning Brothers Nephi, Etem and Phil left for Lagos at 6:00 a.m. by taxi hoping to get finished with the business today, but it was not so. In the evening we all went to the meeting, the attendance was not large. I opened the service speaking on the Restoration and Book of Mormon, Nephi followed, speaking also. The Sisters were happy to meet Lorraine and Nephi, Jr. and Jared, and to have them in their midst.

Wednesday it was necessary to drive back into the City to pick up the Visas for Ghana. In the evening the three of us Brothers attended the meeting. Brother Nephi did most of the talking, giving council and instruction to the Elders, Teachers and members. He assisted them to choose a Brother to be Treasurer of

the Branch and Missionary Funds. This was our last meeting with them. We were sorry that we could not spend more time with them; our schedule would not permit us any more time. We are hopeful they will be visited more frequently by the Ministry from the Centre at Atai Otoro. And they will certainly have our prayers in their behalf to God.

Next morning Brother Etem came early to guide us out of the City. At 5:20 a.m. we left from the Hotel heading toward Porto Novo, Peoples Republic of Benin. A few miles out at the village of Otta, we said farewell to Brother A. E. Etem who had served us so faithfully as a guide each day; he would return home by Bus.

At the Border of Benin we encountered some delay as the Immigration Officer spoke to us in French; we neither spoke nor understood it. After a few moments of no progress, a young lady who happened to be getting clearance for herself, observed our difficulty and began acting as interpreter for us. This saved us some time and inconvenience before getting clearance to enter the country. She was a German citizen able to speak several languages very fluently. She was touring Africa alone with a pack on her back, sleeping wherever night overtook her along the way.

She had visited many countries in Africa and was now working her way back toward her home in Germany perhaps by Christmas. We discovered she was going to the city of Lome, Togo, and this is where we hoped to spend the night. Nephi and Lorraine offered her a ride in the car with us and she accepted. This made the car more crowded, but she would be of help to us again at the Border of Togo, which we entered with very little delay.

We arrived at the Hotel Miramar about 4:00 p.m. where we had reservations. Our friend, having been here previously knew the city very well.

(To be continued)

—o—

APOLOGIES

My apologies to those who have been in the Dallas area in the past several months and tried to contact me without success. I have recently changed my place of residence and was not aware that my new telephone number was not recorded as a change to the old one. Please take note of my new address and telephone number and feel free to call or stop any time you are in the Dallas area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have visited Dallas in the past. We have all felt a joy and a blessing in having you. Thank God for the love we feel when meeting with the Saints of God. For those who might be traveling to or through the Dallas area I would like you to know that we are still meeting in the Texas Power and Light Building located on the corners of Lockwood and Inge Drives in Richardson, Texas.

Brother George Benyola
816 Pebblebrook Drive
Allen, Texas 75002
Tel. 214—727-3518

FROM EVERY ANCIENT BURIAL SITE

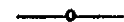
The resurrection morning will be shining bright and clear,
And every eye shall see the Lord and every ear shall hear,
For every grave shall open on that resurrection morn,
And every body rise again that ever had been born.

From every hillside grave they'll come, from every hidden tomb,
Every child who ever was born from any mother's womb;
Then every vault will open wide and every graveyard green,
And every secret hid beneath will rise up to be seen.

The books will be open wide and every life be read,
When "on my right or on my left" will be the last words said;
The earth must yield her bodies long held captive in the clay,
And every deed you've ever done will stand with you that day.

From the ocean's blackness to the resurrection's light,
Beneath the desert floors they'll come from every ancient burial site;
From every jungle's lost confine, from every river bed,
For every field and every mound must then give up their dead.

by Sister Arlene Buffington



What Have You Done Today?

Is anybody happier because you passed their way?
Does anybody remember that you spoke to them today?
The day is almost over, its toiling time is through.
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Can you say tonight in parting with a day that is slipping fast,
That you've helped a single person of the many that you've passed.

Is any heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the person whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or use it, was it well or sorely spent,
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God will say,
You have earned one more tomorrow by the good you did today.

—Author Unknown.

Submitted by Sister Bertha Jean Bilsky

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eller
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Jane Whittaker

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Port Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817
CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Enzana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N8R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Guest Editorialist . . .

LEST WE FORGET

Jesus said unto her, "Said I not unto you, that, if you would believe, you should see the glory of God?" Is God yet a God of miracles? How do you believe?

When I was elected to preside over our mission at Muncey, Ontario, there was a general discouragement. No services had been held there for several months. I was young and full of enthusiasm and faith in God and myself. Brother Furnier gave me the key to the church building, but upon my arrival there, I found that the door had not been opened for a long time. No one came, except a lady, who lived next door to the Church, but who was not a member. She said to me, "I dreamed last night that you came here alone, but I came to tell you not to be dismayed. God is with you. He will help."

Letters were sent to George Nicholas who was an Elder and the Chief at this time. After two years of visiting and faithful endeavor, along with the help of other Elders and laymen who assisted, most members returned. Some new members were baptized, and two deacons were ordained, namely Emos Delery and Cornelius George.

Cornelius was a young man from the Oneida tribe. One Sunday morning he said to me, "Brother Marco, I think I overdid it." I asked him what he did. He said, "I told Mrs. Scarler that if you pray for her, she would be healed." I told Cornelius not to worry, because he was not talking of me, but of the Priesthood which was in me. "I know," he said, "but you see, Mrs. Scarler is paralyzed."

After the services, I, along with several others, went to Mrs. Scarler's home. Upon arriving, I got the surprise of my life. Mrs. Mary Scarler had been bed-fast for eight years, and was old and plain skin and bones. But I was not going to go back on my word.

My God made man out of clay, a form that could not stand up until He (God) breathed into him. So why wouldn't He raise this poor Indian woman up? But I did not know how to begin.

I took my Bible and read *Romans*, Chapter 8, and waited on the Lord in my heart. As I read, Mrs. Scarler took hold of my hand and said, "Marco, baptize me." I looked at the frail form. "Baptize you? We do not sprinkle or pour water on your head. We immerse you in the water, and besides, what do you know about our Church?" I asked her. "I don't," she said, "but there is the angel of God standing next to you who said Mary, have Marco baptize you, because you will soon die."

I answered her, "If God indeed spoke to you through His angel, you will walk inside those waters. Next Sunday, we will be here, and if God truly spoke to you, you will be dressed up and go into those cold waters." I prayed and indeed felt the glory of God.

The following Sunday, Allen Henderson came along, as well as Felix Buccellatto, who now lives in San Diego. Upon arriving in Muncey, I asked Cornelius to go with Felix to pick up Mrs. Scarler. I believed, yet was fearful until I saw Mary Scarler walk.

There was a cry at the church when they saw her come in. Allen said, "Marco, I want to baptize her." Many came to the river. As Allen held her in the water, she said, "I want to pray." She raised her hands to the sky and prayed in her tongue. Then she said, "Now I am ready." Allen immersed her in the water. She was confirmed at the Church by the laying on of hands. We took her home. She stayed in bed, as feeble as before.

Many who had not seen her walk said to her, "Did you truly walk into those waters?" "Why are you unbelieving?" she would say. "Is not God the Lord and yet Creator?"

(continued on page 6)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Story of Dorcas

Dear Girls and Boys,

I want to tell you about a good woman named Dorcas or in the Aramic, Tabitha. She was 'full of good works and almsdeeds'. Her home was in Joppa, a seaport about thirty-four miles from Jerusalem. The people living there depended upon the sea for a living. No doubt the people were very poor and Dorcas saw their needs. She had compassion on the widows and fatherless. For this she was loved by all.

One day Dorcas became very ill and died. Those she had befriended came to her house, washed her and laid her in the upper room. Maybe the same room where she had done much sewing for them. Her friends stood about weeping.

When the disciples heard Peter was in Lydda, a city about ten miles away, they sent two men to tell him about Dorcas's death. They asked him to come without delay. No doubt Peter knew of the good works of Dorcas. Peter left immediately with the men.

Peter went up to the upper room and saw the people all standing about weeping. They showed him the coats and garments Dorcas had made. Peter knelt down and prayed after putting the people from the room. He said, "Tabitha arise." She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up. Then he called the Saints and widows and presented Dorcas to them. How they must have rejoiced!

The miracle was told throughout Joppa and many believed on the Lord. Nothing more is recorded of Dorcas after this healing but we know those who had witnessed this were more grounded in the faith.

Joppa today is called Jaffa, near Tel Aviv. It's harbor is one of the oldest in the world. Peter spent much of his ministry here. It is here where the cedars of Lebanon were brought by Solomon to build his Temple and unloaded. We remember Joppa was where Jonah began his journey and was swallowed by a great fish. Old Joppa stands on a hill above the harbor and from the top one can see Tel Aviv and the beautiful Mediterranean coast. Also on this hill is the Franciscan Monastery of St. Peter where it is said is the place Tabitha was brought back to life.

As we walked through the old city, we found it a jumble of houses with courtyards. Along the winding alleys we found flea markets, cafes, art galleries and artist studios. We visited the "house of Simon the tanner" and then understood the upper rooms and the roof tops. Here one can understand the past and the present of Joppa, named after Japeth the son of Noah, and the modern city of Tel Aviv, a city of boulevards, great shopping centers, commerce and industries. It is a very exciting place to visit and recall the scriptures relating to it.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

LEST WE FORGET' . . .

(Continued from page 5)

I took Brother Cadman there, as he also heard of this glorious experience. He also said, 'Sister Scarler, did you walk into the waters?' She looked steadfastly into his eyes and said, "Are you unbelieving also?" Then she gave the date and the hour that she would go home (die).

My God, why are we so unbelieving? Why, my Lord, you seem so far from us, and yet you are so near. Why are we afraid when you said, "Fear not, I am with you."

To live in Christ and to die is gain. Paul truly knew this — how glorious! Help our unbelief, Lord, our God.

May the peace of God rest with you. Fear not, little flock. God gave us the Kingdom.

Ever faithful by the Grace of God,
Brother Marco Randy

COLORING BOOKS

This notice is to remind all concerned of the availability of the first Church sanctioned coloring book passed by the Conference of October, 1975. The Church accepted this as a religious learning activity for our children.

The G.M.B.A. accepted the printing, sale and distribution of this project. This coloring book supports the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. It contains pictures of the Gospel Restoration; Administering of the Holy Ordinances and others related to our Faith. Each picture is captioned with scriptural references. (see below)

This learning activity will ably assist in teaching our children the true basic principles of the Restored Gospel by a time proven method—the coloring book! These books are adapted for children from ages 5 to 11.

Each coloring book sells for \$.75 each plus mailing costs and is available to Branches, Missions, M.B.A. Locals, Sunday Schools, etc. In addition, they may be purchased and given as gifts for birthdays, home use, sick children and other uses.

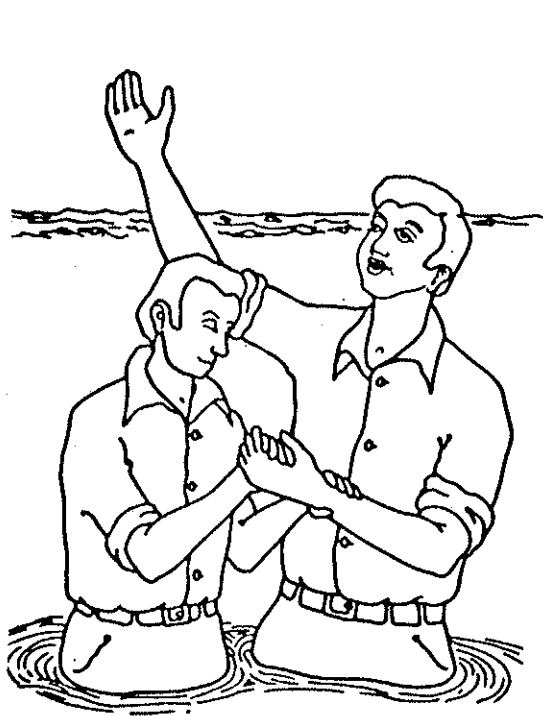
We suggest books be purchased for class use on a 5 to 1 ratio. i.e.—if you have 12 children in your class, order 60 books, do not forget the teacher! This will allow for the continual turnovers in your class, eliminating the reordering of additional books frequently.

Books may be purchased by ordering from the following:

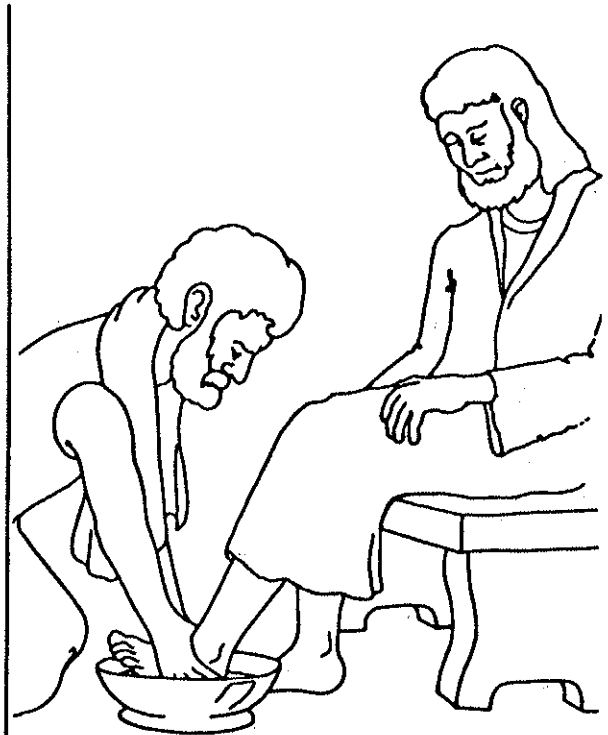
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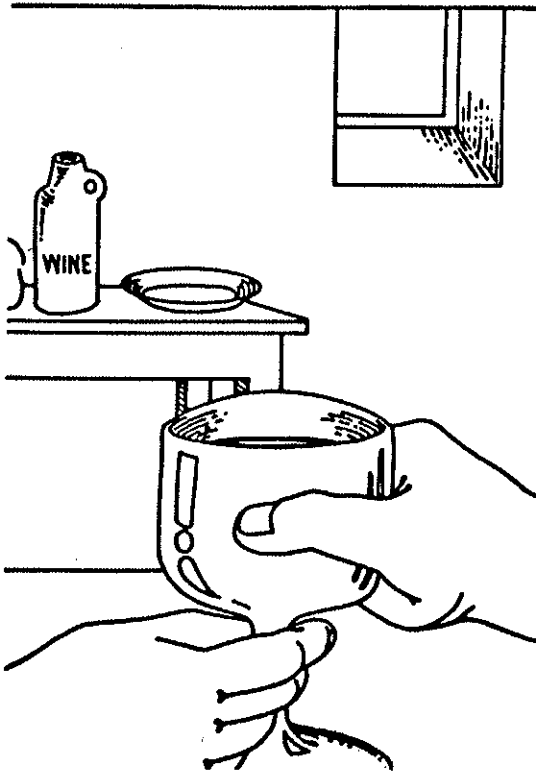
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BAPTISM



FEET WASHING



SACRAMENT



JOSEPH SMITH ASKS GOD WHICH CHURCH SHOULD I JOIN?

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**News from Vero Beach**

On Sunday, December 24, 1978, my son Frank, his wife and I decided to go to the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of the Church. The Presiding Elder welcomed us to open the meeting; thus, my son Frank opened the service, and I followed.

Surely the Spirit of God was manifested. I felt so blessed and overcome by the Spirit of God that I found it quite difficult to contain myself. When I expressed myself, I stated that fathers and mothers who have sons in the Priesthood whose hearts are to please God will surely rejoice in it. Then, Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. said a few closing remarks.

Seated in the congregation was a beautiful young girl who came to me at the close of the meeting and asked me why I was crying. I said, "Honey, the Spirit of God has filled me and has made me cry." I really feel to praise God for His blessings and mercies towards all of us in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Along with this, I would like to relate a short experience I had. In the month of October, 1922 while I was on my driveway in Niles, Ohio, a man appeared to me, and I didn't hear him walking. He asked me if I could help him with a bite to eat. My answer was "Sure enough".

I asked him to follow me into the house, but he said that the wooden steps were good enough for him to sit down. But I said, "No" because he looked to me very tired. I told him to come in and relax while my wife prepared something for him. After he ate, he told me that he had no money to pay me. But I answered and told him that it was not my intention to have him pay.

Then he told me that he had come from Cleveland, Ohio and that he stopped at many homes along the way, but they all shut the door on him. I was the only one who made him feel at home. When he left, he just disappeared. He told me that within a very short time, God would place a great blessing upon me and my family.

Sure enough, within 3 or 4 weeks, my wife and I were baptized into the Church. From that day on, we cannot thank God enough. I was a very sick man, and all my affliction disappeared, and all my bad habits were removed.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dominic Giovannone
812 26th Avenue
Vero Beach, Florida 32969

Baptism at New Brunswick

On a brisk, cold Sunday morning, January 28, 1979, we started our blessed Sabbath day at the river's edge. We had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of Sister Joann Stransky into the fold of God. Brother Wilbur McNeil brought her into the waters of new life.

After returning to the service that day, Sister Joann was confirmed by Brother Frank Mazzeo. Our Lord did shower His blessings upon us the entire day. Our prayers

are that all people in the fold of God may continually feast at the Master's table.

Sister June Difede
New Brunswick, N.J. Branch

New Convert in Phoenix Branch

On Sunday, January 28, 1979, the Saints of the Phoenix Branch rejoiced in the baptism of Brother Anthony R. Palermo. Brother Anthony was baptized by Brother August Perlione and later confirmed by Brother Peter Capone.

Our new Brother and his wife, Sister Rose, are formerly from Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Anthony has been attending church services regularly. He witnessed three experiences prior to his baptism, including a beautiful experience had just one week earlier when the Apostles and District Presidents met in Phoenix.

May the Lord bless Brother Palermo in his new way of life.

News from Sterling Heights

Sunday, January 14, 1979 dawned cold but sunny. Saturday had been the first heavy snow fall of the season, with predictions of a blizzard on Sunday. However, the Lord withheld the blizzard and gave us a beautiful Sabbath. Brother Louis Vitto told us that Mike Marinetti, who had undergone open heart surgery on Thursday, was recuperating nicely and realized the Saints had been praying for him.

Brother Paul Whitton opened in prayer, and Brother Spencer Everett took charge of the meeting. His theme was HOPE. We had several of the young people from Branch No. 3 with us, as their meeting had been called off because of the bad weather. Along with the young people of our branch, they sang "The Haven of Rest".

Brother Spencer read *Moroni 7:40-42* and *Jeremiah 17:7*. The prophets of old tell us hope is essential for us to have. We have hope in our youth for our future. Brother Spencer told of an experience of a man who had bleeding ulcers, a heart condition and emphysema, and the doctors said there was no hope. After he went to the hospital and anointed the man, the bleeding stopped, the man was healed and the family was given new hope.

Brother Spencer said we do not make conditions when we accept Christ; we come just as we are. God makes promises to us, and He keeps His promises, as is proved in the Scriptures. Faith never gives up, neither do love or hope. Love follows us right into the kingdom of heaven. Brother Louis Vitto then reminded us of the victory in faith and hope. The Champine brothers then sang, "Calvary Covers It All" and "This Is Your Day".

The meeting was then left open for testimony. Sister Nancy Jenkinson stood and asked for her baptism. Sister Nancy has a son who is blind and confined to a wheelchair. She told of a dream she had that her boy was dying and in the hospital. As she walked into the hospital, she saw her son, who appeared now as a grown man, sitting in his wheelchair at the end of the corridor. He stood and walked toward her, his gait very unsteady. Then he

turned to her, and he was wearing glasses and walking very straight. Sister Nancy called Brother Lou Vitto and related her dream. Brother Lou received an interpretation through God, that Nancy was seeing herself, through her son Jeremy, walking blindly and unsteadily. When she saw him wearing glasses, it meant that she was now able to see the light. He immediately called Nancy and related his interpretation, and Nancy said she could hardly wait until Sunday to call for her baptism.

Sister Nancy and her husband, Fred, always bring Jeremy to church with them. During his mother's testimony, this little child's face was radiant with a beautiful smile. Brother Lou then expressed how God has a plan that is always so perfect, and if your heart is right, God will not pass you by. Sister Nancy and Fred were supposed to go up north this weekend, as her mother was scheduled for an operation, but the operation was postponed. It was God's plan that they be in church today.

We sang "Ring the Bells of Heaven" and dismissed our service. Our Brothers went to the lake and cut through about eighteen inches of ice, and we met at the lake at 5:00 P.M. Sister Nancy was baptized by Brother Lou Vitto. We returned to the church at 7:00 P.M. for the confirmation.

Brother Lou opened the evening meeting stating that we should exercise the faith we had this morning and we would receive the same blessing tonight. The Champine brothers then sang "He Touched Me". Brother Gerace then told of the feeling he had this morning that someone would be baptized today, but then he thought of the frigid weather and thought, "Impossible". He recalled his own baptism and that of his wife, Sister Elizabeth. Brother Gerace explained that if our heart is right with God, regardless of how many years we are in His service, we maintain the same drive and the same spirit.

Sister Nancy was then confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino and was served communion. Brother Lou then asked Nancy to repeat her dream. Sister Nancy also told of a visit by Sister Shirley Vitto and how she had told Sister Shirley she had been praying for a sign but had received nothing. Sister Shirley told her that perhaps she had been praying wrong and should pray for repentance. She did this, and that is when she had the dream.

Judy Champine, the wife of Brother Gary, who as yet has not committed her life to God, had a dream on Saturday night where she saw the ice and snow, a group of people standing about rejoicing, a dark-haired woman and Brother Lou dressed in white.

Sister Alyse Molisani then sang the "Twenty-Third Psalm" and dedicated it to Sister Nancy. Brother Lou Vitto concluded the service, reminding Sister Nancy that her life had just begun anew. He asked that we all pray for her and for each other, that we all would grow spiritually stronger in the Gospel.

Apostles Meet in Arizona

The Arizona District was privileged and honored to have Apostles Rocco Biscotti, Russell Cadman, Joseph Bittinger, Gorie Ciaravino, Anthony Corrado, Frank Calabrese, Nick Pietrangelo, Joseph Lovalvo, James Lovalvo and Dominic Thomas, along with the District Presidents,

meet in Phoenix from January 18-21, 1979. We missed Apostle Paul D'Amico who was absent due to illness.

All members and visitors were greatly uplifted, not only by the presence of the Apostles, but also by their words of encouragement.

We were having some unusually dreary weather when they arrived, but the sunshine that mother nature did not provide, the Apostles did!

On Friday night, the Phoenix Branch was filled to capacity. The highlight of that evening was honoring two of our elderly members. Brother Louis Biscotti (Elder) and his wife, Sister Louise. They have been such a blessed influence on the Phoenix Branch since their move from California several years ago. Now in failing health, they will be returning to California in early February to be with their four sons who are California residents. They were both anointed as a circle of Apostles surrounded them. A great spiritual blessing was experienced by all.

Words cannot describe the meetings that the Apostles held in Phoenix. According to reports, there was a constant unity in all that they did.

The Sunday meeting proved to be the perfect ending of a beautiful weekend, as we were refreshed with the words of our visiting Brothers. May the Lord continue to richly bless the leaders of our Church.

Sister Frances J. Capone
Editor, Phoenix Branch

Blessings in Niles Branch on Christmas Eve

An experience by Brother Wayne Martorana:

On Saturday, December 3, 1978 after I retired to sleep, the Lord blessed me with a short dream. I dreamed I was reading through the Gospel News and as I continued I came upon an article entitled, "Blessings in Niles Branch on Christmas Eve." I saw no details of the article, only the title, and the dream ended. I awoke on Sunday and prayed to God that He would indeed fulfill this experience. The dream became a reality in our afternoon service, Sunday, December 24, when Pat Knapp arose and asked for his baptism, bringing to a conclusion a wonderful day of service to God.

* * *

On Sunday, December 31, 1978, Patrick Joseph Knapp was baptized by Brother Joseph Genaro and confirmed by Brother Dan Corrado. Our morning meeting was opened by Brother Bob Ciarrochi taking for his text *Acts 2:36-47*. It reads how the Apostle Peter told the House of Israel that they must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and then receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. They gladly listened to Peter's words and were baptized. They knew Peter was a man who moved in fear and trembling before the Lord.

We truly felt the manifestation of God's spirit in both of our Sunday meetings. There were many beautiful testimonies given and all returned home blessed. We are very grateful for another soul coming unto the Lord.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch editor

News from Lake Worth

On Sunday, January 7th, the Lake Worth Branch was visited by Apostle V. J. Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary. We were happy to see them once again since their move to California. Visitors from various parts of the District of Florida were present waiting to hear the words that were to be spoken. Brother Jim opened the meeting reading and exhorting the farewell message of Moroni. He dwelt on these lines throughout the enjoyable meeting.

Brother Charles Smith of Ft. Pierce followed and enlarged upon this, also warning us not to be satisfied nor to become complacent but to strive to serve God more earnestly each day.

The afternoon brought many wonderful testimonies among which was Sister Mary Lovalvo's concerning their recent trip to Mexico. Also, we witnessed the testimony of Sister Lettie Obradovich and how a miracle of healing was worked in her life.

We are thankful to have met to fellowship with all our brothers and sisters for each brings a special kind of joy.

Sister Linda D'Orazio

News from Tampa Branch

On December 31, the Tampa Branch enjoyed a wonderful meeting as we began the New Year together. We were blessed to have visiting with us Brother Frank and Sister Ina Giovannone from Ohio, Brother Sam and Sister Rose Risola from New Jersey, and Brother Eddie and Sister Mary Pastori from New Brunswick, N.J. (who are spending the winter here in Tampa).

Brother Frank Giovannone spoke on St. Luke 12:31 and also related some past personal experiences to us.

That evening, we all gathered at the home of Brother Dom and Sister Gelsa Risola's for the New Year's Eve Watch meeting. Many of the Saints attended as well as all of the visiting brothers and sisters. We enjoyed a wonderful time in singing, prayer and fellowship with one another. Just before midnight, Brother Billy Tucker along with Brothers Meredith Griffith and Duane Lowe recalled the blessings received in the past year at the Tampa Branch. A banner was made by Sammy Risola stating our Branch motto: "Be Divine in '79". Our desire is to live up to our motto.

Sister Wendy Risola

Visitors in Fort Pierce

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

What a joy we received to have with us recently our beloved Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo. How many precious memories their presence brought back to our minds. Yet seeing them again reminded us of the loss we felt when they left us to move to California. Brother Sam Costarella, our presiding elder so graciously turned the meeting over to Brother Jim and after two pleasing solos, God granted him the privilege to bring us a very stirring and enlightening message.

At the close of the meeting a circle was made and Brother Bittinger offered prayer. Brother and Sister DiNapoli's daughter sang a very beautiful song. We also had a visitor who proclaimed of the blessing she felt. Sister Mazzeo was present and it was good to see her.

The sisters of the Branch had prepared a light repast and we had the opportunity to fellowship for a short while. Though we sorrowed at bidding our loved ones adieu, our prayer will be for their safe return. We thank God for letting them come our way. God bless and keep you one and all.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mary Glover

New Years in Miami

Happy New Year to all from Miami and God's blessings to all.

We enjoyed a beautiful watch meeting on New Year's Eve. The Broward Mission joined us with a total attendance of over fifty people.

Brother Alvin Swanson and Brother Bert Sheffler decided to invite all the teachers on the pulpit and we enjoyed hearing the testimonies of our new teachers, Brother Joseph Catone, Sr. and Brother Dennis Moraco.

We were pleased to have visiting Brother William Gennaro and his wife, Sister Betty, from Youngstown, Ohio and Brother and Sister Dominic Moraco from Detroit with their families. After some singing, testimonies and experiences, we all enjoyed a year-end feast. All the sisters brought different dishes to contribute to quite a delicious dinner.

We also wanted to report on the trip that the Swansons took last fall. Brother Alex Marchando, Sister Leda Sheffler and Skip Swanson joined Brother and Sister Swanson and flew to Lima, Peru. After touring points of interest a couple of days, they flew over the snow capped Andes Mountains to Cisco. There they visited Machu Picchu, the famed Inca Indian ruins which were hid from the world and accidentally discovered in 1911 and are now classified as one of the great wonders of the world.

We send our best wishes to all of you and may God bless you all.

Sister Eileen Katsaras, Editor

News from South Bend, Indiana

Dear Brother Paul:

How are you? It's been a long time since we've last met, and I wish everyone at home is in good health. Enclosed is a short article for the Branch and Mission News section of *The Gospel News*. I hope you will be able to find a place for it in the next edition. Thank you for your consideration and may God continue to bless your efforts.

o o o

The brothers, sisters and friends of the South Bend, Indiana mission extend our warmest greetings to the Saints throughout the world.

God's continual blessings form the singularly im-

portant thread in our lives as we work in this part of the vineyard. Each Sunday, we assemble in the home of Brother John and Sister Georgina Love to conduct Sunday School. In all, we have nine baptized members and a good number of children who attend. Brother Mitch Edwards, from the Ohio District (under which we are a mission), visits about once a month and conducts a service complete with sacrament, testimony and feet-washing. He often brings other brothers and sisters to the services.

We found ourselves especially blessed Sunday, January 28. The adults turned their Sunday School class over to prayer after discussing Alma's encounter with the Zoramites. As we knelt and petitioned God, His Spirit fell upon us, inspiring each person to utter a beautiful prayer in turn. Some prayed for mission work in America and for Brother Nephi DeMercurio and his family in Africa; others prayed for our Sister Flossie Molinatto from Hammond, who has been recuperating from a heart attack. But everyone felt that kinship only the Saints can experience when approaching God with humility and singleness of mind.

Everyone gathered to sing hymns to close the service, but Brother Lee Roy Love, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, opened the meeting to testimony before we were to close in prayer. Again, God's Spirit descended as we felt the liberty to declare our thanks.

But God was still not finished blessing us. When testimony was completed, and as we sang the last hymn, Sister Janet Beckett had a moving experience. As she sat in her chair, she was taken away in The Spirit. She told us later that she felt herself being lifted and asked, "Is that you, Lord?" There was no answer at first so she asked again. "Yes," was the answer, and Sister Janet then felt herself taken up. She told us later that God spoke to her, but she couldn't relay the words. She also said—as Nephi and those of old—that the experience was indescribable. As she told us, however, we truly shared her experience.

So, we are happy to publish the news that God is working in South Bend. The desire of our group is to erect the banner of The Church and show others to Jesus Christ. With your prayers and God's guidance, we will do our best.

Your Brother in Christ,
Ralph Frammolino

Metuchen, New Jersey Branch

Sunday, December 17, 1978

A wonderful time was had by all attending the Metuchen Branch this day. There were a few friends and several Brothers and Sisters visiting from various Branches to witness the ordination of Brother Ken Lombardo as Teacher, and Brother Anthony Vadasz, Jr. as Deacon in Metuchen Branch.

Brother Matthew Rogolino, President of the Atlantic Coast District, was among the visitors and opened the morning service. While Brother Matt was speaking, Sister Stella Arcuri saw Brother Matt's face all aglow in a bright light.

Following Brother Matt's talk, the ordinations took

place. Brother Walter Cihomsky, Presiding Teacher of the Metuchen Branch, was asked to wash Brother Ken's feet. Brother Walter felt a wonderful blessing in washing our brother's feet. He stated that as he began to kneel before our Brother he felt the Spirit of God come upon him and began to cry. As he was praying to the Lord and washing Brother Ken's feet, his eyes were opened but he could not see Brother Ken nor did he remember the words he spoke because as he prayed a vision appeared. He saw Jesus Christ sitting at the head of the table and saw that He rose up from the chair and put a towel around His neck and with a basin of water knelt before the Apostles' and began to wash their feet one by one. Brother Walter related this experience and God's blessing was felt by all.

When the Elders of the Church began the Laying-on-of-Hands to confirm our Brothers in their Offices, the Lord poured forth his blessing once more. As Brother Joseph Arcuri, Presiding Elder of the Metuchen Branch, began praying over Brother Anthony Vadasz, Jr., the Spirit of God came upon him and he spoke in the Gift of Tongues; a gift which it seems is given by God to our Brother, for he has spoken in the Gift of Tongues on several other occasions.

These experiences confirmed God's acceptance of these two young Brothers into their Offices. This truly was a wonderful meeting and will long be remembered by all of our Brothers and Sisters and Friends present that day.

Sister Marie Cihomsky
Branch Editor

Meetings of the Carolinas

On January 28, 1979 we were privileged to have a visit from Brother and Sister August D'Orazio of Edison, New Jersey at the home of Brother and Sister Nathan Peterkin of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Brothers Nathan Peterkin, August D'Orazio, Robert Dyer and Rodney Dyer, Sisters Carmella Peterkin, Betty D'Orazio, Florence LaRosa, Esther Dyer and Judy Dyer. We had a beautiful meeting with Brother August D'Orazio opening and reminding us of the many blessings felt in the house meetings of the old time church. As we entered the home of Brother Peterkin there was a special glow being greeted. There was a good spirit of testimony, singing, and fellowship throughout the day. Our spiritual needs were filled to capacity and needless to say our natural needs were satisfied with a feast of good things from the kitchen of Brother and Sister Peterkin. As we departed Brother Nathan expressed a desire for North Carolina and South Carolina to meet together at least once a month and to bring along a friend.

There is no way to explain how we all enjoy having company being away from the body of The Church. As in the past we have enjoyed blessings with those who have stopped by and held meetings with us in North Carolina or just for a visit. Remember to pray for us in the Carolinas.

The man who removed the mountain started by carrying away small stones.

OUR TESTIMONY

By Brother Albert and Sister Carmella Ventura
Cleveland Branch No. 1

BROTHER ALBERT VENTURA'S TESTIMONY:

I was born in Rionero Sannitico, Italy, on January 24, 1895. My mother died when I was 14 years of age. I was the second oldest child from a family of 9 children.

On July 29, 1915, I married Carmella Frabotta who came from my hometown of Rionero. In 1916, my first child Ermelinda (Sister Erma Milano, of Cleveland No. 1), was born while I was in the land of America. My desire was to go to America to look for work and then to return to Italy to care for my family. While in America, I became acquainted with The Church of Jesus Christ through my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Brother Emil and Sister Marianne DeGeronimo.

While living in Cleveland, Ohio, Brother Rocco Biscotti and Brother DeGeronimo came to my home and told me about the Gospel. I did not accept it at that time; but the Lord gave me an experience. I went to the Lord in prayer and He gave me the desire to go meet with the two Brothers once more and I had the following dream: I dreamed that God told me to "Move to the village of Euclid, Ohio." In the Fall of 1925, I continued to meet with the Saints of The Church in the home of Brother Vincent and Sister Agatha Thomas, who were also residing in Euclid at that time. The more I learned about The Church, the more I realized that I had found the one and only true Church. I was so convinced and ready to render obedience unto God that I went to my relations to tell them of the good news of finding The Church of Jesus Christ. One of my cousins was so angered to hear that I was changing my religious beliefs that she took a large knife out of the kitchen cupboard and tried to stab me in the stomach; but before the knife could reach my body, the blade fell off of the handle and onto the floor. She stood there with the handle in her hand and was shocked. Brother DeGeronimo and another friend, Mr. Mike Fioritto, were sitting at the kitchen table and witnessed this incidence. Mr. Fioritto saw the blade enter my body and Brother Gerome saw a puddle of blood on the floor where I was standing. I was not harmed in any way and God had spared my life. We left my cousin's home immediately and we returned to Brother DeGeronimo's house where we discussed what had taken place. Mr. Fioritto could not believe that I was not harmed and I had to show them my side where the knife was supposed to have entered my body. They were finally convinced that I was not harmed. This is the experience that convinced me that God was watching and protecting me and on April 10, 1926, I was baptized in Lake Erie by Brother Andrew Nemeth.

After I was baptized, I called for my wife and daughter to join me in the land of America. My wife had an experience in Italy a few weeks before I was baptized. This was the experience she had:

SISTER CARMELLA VENTURA'S TESTIMONY:

"I dreamed that I was sitting upon a large stone and was surrounded by a flock of sheep which I was tending and I was sewing a white cloth. Suddenly I felt the need for water but it was too far off in the distance for me to go and get the water. At that moment, a man appeared before me and asked me: "Are you thirsty." And I answered: "yes." He then said: "Follow after Me and I will give you water." Then we walked about 100 feet ahead of us and he said: "Stop here." The ground opened up and there was a crevice approximately 4 feet deep by 4 feet wide and the man went into the opening and he had a piece of steel in his hands. He put the piece of steel on a stone and water flowed out of the stone. Then he took a glass full of water and he said to me: "Here, drink," and I drank the water. He asked me if I wanted more, and I answered: "No, I am satisfied." Then the man disappeared in my dream and I found myself on the top of a large building. I proceeded to walk around the top of the building. I became very frightened but suddenly the same man appeared before me again and he was on the ground near a big stepladder. He had his arms opened wide. He then said to me: "Do not be afraid, I will take you in my arms." That was the conclusion of my dream.

Two weeks after having this dream, I received a letter from my husband, asking me to join him in America and that he had become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in America. I joined my husband in America, along with my daughter Erma, and was baptized on May 27, 1928. I truly accepted the Gospel along with my husband and we began a new life both spiritually and naturally.

* * *

BROTHER VENTURA'S CONCLUSION OF THEIR CONVERSION TO THE CHURCH:

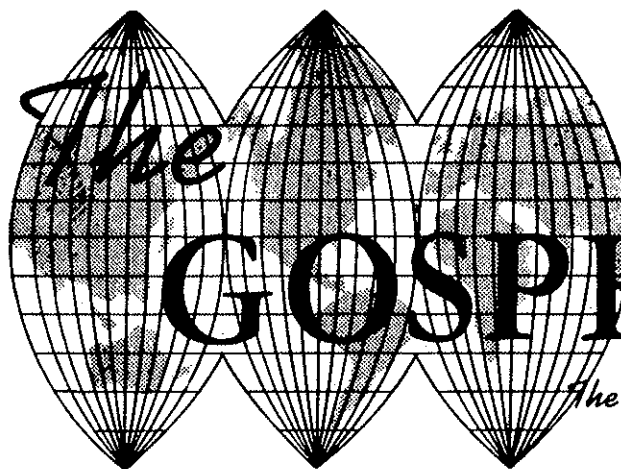
In June, 1930, I was ordained into the office of Deacon and; on April 10, 1938, I was ordained into the office of Teacher. With the help of the Lord, I am still able to go about my duties in The Church.

My wife and I have had many wonderful experiences after coming into The Church of Jesus Christ. My wife will be celebrating her "50th anniversary" of being a member of The Church on May 27, 1978, and I recently celebrated my "53rd spiritual birth" on April 10, 1978.

Several months ago, while I was being anointed for affliction, I experienced my heart leaping within my chest. I have felt so much better since that anointing.

We thank God for sparing our lives all these years and especially for allowing us to become a member of His Church. My wife and I will be observing our "63rd Wedding Anniversary" on July 29, 1978.

Brother Albert Ventura,
Cleveland Branch No. 1



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
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NEWS FROM GHANA

On February 16, 1979, Brothers John Ross and Gerald Hildenbrand visited us from the USA via Nigeria. They were met at their arrival at Accra Kotoka International Airport by Mrs. Ford Boadu and me. We arrived safely at Kumasi the following day, February 17, 1979.

On Sunday, February 18, we all met together and worshipped at Nevamase. After we sang two hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Sweet By and By", Brother Ross prayed. After the prayer, Brother Hildenbrand preached the sermon. He quoted from *Romans, Chapter 5*. He stressed to us how God loves us, and how in spite of our evil deeds, He sent His Son to die for us. He said, "Brothers in America, despite their color, love us even more than real brothers." He expressed to us how he loved us, even though he had never met us before. Brother Hildenbrand encouraged us to embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We felt the spirit of God in our midst that day. When Brother Hildenbrand finished, Brother John Ross continued, expressing the feeling our Brothers and Sisters in America have for us. He too spoke of love and how we in Ghana will love each other. He urged us to love our Brothers and Sisters and to encourage the weak ones when the need arises. We enjoyed their fellowship. The whole congregation enjoyed the glory of God.

I accompanied our Brethren to visit the various branches to greet the people and to encourage them to embrace the Gospel. The presence of our Brothers from America has been a great achievement for the Ghana Church. We now have the feeling that we in Ghana have some Brothers very far away who care for us and pray for us so that we will be strengthened in The Church.

I discussed with Brother John Ross (in my correspondence), the difficulties I encounter in my travels up and down to visit the Branches. I discussed with Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Nephi DeMercurio the possibility of acquiring a bike to travel to the stations when they visited Ghana in August, 1978.

During this visit, Brother John Ross has made it possible to acquire a motor bike. Brother Ross gave me funds from the Parent Church to buy the motor bike, helmet and to cover registration and insurance. I thank the Parent Church for making it possible for me to acquire the bike.

The Church of Jesus Christ in Ghana has experienced many blessings since it was established two and a half

years ago. We have enjoyed healings, and many testimonies have been given by the members. Many enjoy healing, and other blessings.

One miraculous event which has occurred in my life happened in December. My wife collected some ornaments from a woman in our village to dress our new born baby on December 25, 1978 to greet my mother. While we were returning, my wife put the ornaments in a purse. At the Central Lorry Park, she dropped the purse. We discovered the loss the following morning when we wanted to take money from the purse. We reported the matter to the owner, and she demanded that we pay her or replace them. So on December 31, 1978, I informed the Saints and invited them to pray to God to provide money for the payment. There was a fasting and prayer meeting beginning from December 31 and ending January 1, 1979. On the evening of December 31, we held a vigil prayer for The Church, the sick and other things. The price for the ornaments was \$1,250. We told the Lord to make it possible for its payment.

On January 6, 1979 (that was the 11th day after the loss), I was in a queue at the same Lorry Park, when a young man came to me and said "I took your purse at the Lorry Station on the 27th of December. I cannot keep it any more. I have searched for you since January 2, but no trace of you was found. So I am more relieved today, because I cannot keep the purse anymore." I gave thanks to God and gave the man ten cedis. I shared this news with the Brethren, and they praised God and recorded it as a miracle.

A day after the prayer meeting, my wife had a dream that a man was presenting the purse to me, and the dream came to pass.

The Ghana Church will be happy to see missionaries in our midst frequently. The Church has 240 souls here. We have 1 Elder, 3 Teachers, 1 Deacon and 2 Deaconesses.

Brother Ford Boadu

BROTHERS RETURN FROM NIGERIA

On February 25, 1979, Brothers John Ross and Mike Hildenbrand safely returned from a forty-five day visit to our Church in Nigeria and Ghana.

We thank God that our Brothers experienced good health during their stay in Africa. Also, Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and their family, along with our Brothers and Sisters there, send their regards to the Parent Church.

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

QUESTION.... "What is women's role in the Church?"

The first principle in any woman's life is DIGNITY. ... Dignity involves deep respect for God, His church, self-respect, and respect for man, be it her father, brother or husband.

Respect for God embraces many things: to love Him and keep His commandments, to walk circumspectly in His sight, to have compassion for others, to be bereft of pride and vanity, and to fear Him, for, "The beginning of wisdom is in the fear of the Lord."

Respect for the Lord's church involves activity; active in testimony, active in the various auxiliaries of the Church; involving oneself to the Missionary endeavors of the church; conducting oneself with sobriety and meekness as "becometh a daughter of Sarah." 1st Peter 3:6; to be sensitive to the needs of others, whether it is physical or spiritual; and to fast and pray for the success of the church, and for His Ministry.

Self-respect involves having spiritual pride in being a daughter of the Lord. For, it is written, "But as many as received Him unto them, gave He power to become the sons (or daughters) of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12. Self-respect is keeping oneself in constant awareness of the beauty that lies within; an inward realization that, "I am a child of the King." Self-respect is knowing that although life around you is filled at times with temptations, one can overcome, by the grace of God, the fiery darts of temptation and emerge victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord. Self-respect is knowing that "My body and soul are mine; God gave them to me, and I shall return them to Him spotless and pure;" Self-respect is keeping oneself righteous, morally and spiritually.

Respect for man is knowing that you can stand beside him, not as a competitor, not as his servant, but as his equal partner, his comrade-in-arms; complimenting his God-given powers.

Whatever attacks and assails the dignity of woman, attacks the well-being and security of civilization and the race of man.

Low moral standards, absence of all standards, divorce and the consequent instability of the home, infidelity and the deliberate limitation of human fruitfulness in defiance of the laws of God, and the counsel of the church, lead to the eventual disintegration of self, home, and country. On the other hand, high moral standards, faithfulness to God and self, obedience to the laws of God, adherence to the counsel of the church, all lead to a building up of a strong home, a powerful and spiritual self-being, an asset to the church and community, and to a strong and powerful nation.

SECOND PRINCIPLE....

FEMINISM....

Feminism is a complete surrender to the Godly ideal that, "I am a woman." "I have been created in the image of God; I have been created to be a help-mate to man." It is written, "And the Lord said, It is not good for a man to be alone; I will make him a help mate for him... And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and

closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman." Genesis, 2:18-23.

Feminism does not seek to out-do man in physical and spiritual endeavors, She does not seek to "prove herself as good as any man"; solely for the purpose of self-aggrandizement, and showing the world that she can achieve whatsoever a man can. Feminism is rather the complete "whole" of womanhood, wherein she realizes that she can labor side by side with man as a help and comfort as an equal partner in life; not to be a leader of man, but to stand at his side at all times.

By trying to compete and outdo man, there is always the tendency to encourage the loss of the God-given beauty of Femininity. There is a trend in this generation, both in the political and religious world, where the competition between man and woman is raging fiercely. But is this in the will of God? From the beginning it was not so. Man had his place in the world as a father, a husband and provider; in the church he was called in the priesthood according to the scriptures, to administer the word and the ordinances. The woman was called to fill that place of dear help-mate to him. For it is written, "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband." Proverbs 12:4. Let me paraphrase this: "A virtuous woman is a crown to the man who is seeking to serve God and establish His kingdom on the face of the earth."

THIRD PRINCIPLE....

Build upon the glory of the spirit, not necessarily upon the natural beauty nor the glory of attaining position and fame in order to satisfy and feed one's ego. A woman's inward beauty of simplicity, honor, compassion and love will shine forth from her as the rays of the sun. Men soon forget the outward beauty of a person but will always remember the fine moral and spiritual inward beauty that glows and glows like a precious jewel. The inward beauty is like a melody that lingers on even after the song is ended.

Good women have always been, by the grace of God, a means of encouragement and strength to men in all ages. Evil and selfish women have been the downfall and destruction of men and nations. Helen of Troy, with all her beauty, caused the blood-shed of thousands of men; Jezebel caused much grief and bloodshed in Israel; Delilah caused much grief and death to Samson and hundreds of others. On the other side of the coin, those women who were righteous brought joy and comfort to both man and nations, such as Esther, Sarah, Rebecca, Ruth, Mary, the mother of Christ, Mary Magdalene, and a host of others too numerous to mention.

Thus, our women in the church have an exalted place in the plan of God. Love, that intangible, yet powerful emotion, must be the motivating element in our women's life. Love of God first and always, then husband, children, nation, and not the least, the Church. "No woman loves man truly who loves man more than God. Man's love is of Man's life a thing apart; 'Tis woman's whole existence." (Byron)

In opposition to the modern woman who urges easy divorce and separation, the church women must promote and urge good family life, a sound religious background, an ongoing church activity, to establish high moral and

spiritual standards, and to be that powerful force behind the Ministry.

As it is a desire for the vast majority of women to become a mother and raise a family of good children, so should a saintly woman seek that "Mother-hood" spiritually. "She is a Mother in the Church" is the highest accolade and honor that any woman can achieve. Who knows better than the husband who, at times goes through discouragements and adversities, feels the gentle touch of his wife's hand encouraging him, telling him that everything will be alright. Who knows better than the Minister, who also, at times needs a little encouragement, and feels the gentle and fervent prayers of our "spiritual sisters" who love him dearly. The women of our church are very important to the work of building God's kingdom. Our special thanks to the General Ladies Circle whose unwavering and dedicated efforts have been an inspiring factor in the Missionary effort of the Church of Jesus Christ; and shall stand as a memorial in the history of the Church. In conclusion, let all the women in our Church hold their heads high and praise the Lord, for you are important in God's Kingdom, and an asset to the Church. Amen.

"A TRIBUTE"

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I felt in my heart to write this letter regarding the loss of our dear Brother Richard Isaac, who passed away on December 7, 1978. Our loss was Heaven's gain, I'm sure.

I have known Brother Richard and Sister Georgina Isaac ever since my childhood, but when I joined The Church of Jesus Christ we became very close. In fact, I have spent week-ends with them, going from the City of Toronto to attend our Church Meetings in the Village of Ohswehen, Ontario Canada (Six Nations Reservation) for many years. We had spent much time sitting around their table, at breakfast, lunch and supper time, discussing our problems and speaking of the things of God, trusting in the Lord to help us.

Brother Richard was Chief Counsellor for the Six Nations Reservation for many years and had many improvements made on the reserve and elsewhere during his term in office. He was honored by many, the Canadian Government, the Premier of Canada, many of the City's Officials, the other Counsellors, the Queen of England and especially the Brothers and Sisters of the Mission on the Reservation. He will long be remembered by everyone on our reservation and everywhere.

It was heartbreaking for all of us when Brother Richard became ill. We all knew how bad he was, but he took it all without complaining, even though he was in constant pain and suffering beyond our understanding. Many times his testimony was that he was not afraid to die, because he knew that there was a beautiful place that he was going to (the Paradise of God). Oh what a wonderful saint he was! As I watched his daily life he taught me many marvelous things pertaining to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, he taught me how to live and he taught me how to die. The courage and faith this brother had up to his last breath was really amazing. Who else could live like that save only those who are

completely ready to meet their Maker, Our Lord and Savior.

Now, I just pray that each of us might be ready like Brother Richard was, that when the Lord sees fit to call us home that we will be able to see Brother Richard and all the rest of the saints who have gone before us. What a glorious day that will be!

Sister Georgina had a double sorrow to bear. Her sister Jean Garlow lost her husband George just ten days later. Please pray for Sister Georgina and Jean that the Lord will give them both strength to carry on, not in our strength, but His wonderful strength.

May God bless all of you is my prayer.

Love,

Your Sister-in-Christ,
Sister Irene Rigby
73 Metcalfe Street
Toronto, Ont. Canada

NOTE OF THANKS

It would be very difficult to contact all my Brothers and Sisters to thank them for their prayers, telephone calls and the many beautiful cards I have received during my recent illness. Thank God, I am recuperating, and with the prayers of the Saints, I will regain my strength. I want to thank you all from the depths of my heart.

Brother Eugenio Perri, Sr.
Lake Worth, Florida

NOTE OF THANKS

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you from the depths of my heart for your cards, flowers, gifts, your sincere concern and most of all your prayers for me during my illness. Truly I felt the evidence of each prayer offered and was cheered by each thoughtful gesture. Words are inadequate to tell you each how much I love you and to express the love and gratitude I have for the Lord. He has been my support and truly my comforter. The Lord is so good and his gospel is so true. I could have never gone through this without the Lord's help and the support and love of his people. Thank you very much. My prayer is that the Lord may bless you each one many times over for the goodness you've sent my way. Please continue to pray for me, for prayer changes it all.

My sincere thanks,
Miss Alma Nolfi

Dear Readers:

Please Note: Many items in the paper periodically appear to be late. However, no article that has a date reference is held over from one month to another. Please check with your Branch and Mission Editors to ascertain any delays.

The Editor

Ohio District Conference

The Ohio District Conference convened in the Youngstown Church Building on February 24 and 25. The business portion of the conference, which included the election of officers was conducted very orderly and efficiently.

The Ohio District will conduct a week of evangelistic meetings in the Rochester, N.Y. area from June 18-24. Services will be held on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Ohio area M.B.A. will assist by going door to door and passing out literature promoting these meetings on the days preceding the services.

There will also be three spiritual meetings conducted by the district. The first meeting will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 6, the second will be hosted by the Warren, Ohio branch on July 22, and the third will be in the Lorain, Ohio branch on September 16. These meetings start at 6:30.

The Sunday service of the district conference was opened with several musical selections by the young people and the Youngstown Quartet. Brother Paul D'Amico offered the opening prayer. Brother Ansel D'Amico, our opening speaker, read from Matthew 7:24-29 for his text. These words of Christ summarize his sermon on the mount. "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:..."

Brother Ansel stressed the importance of building our spiritual lives on a solid foundation. He related an experience of a man whom he knew who was out gathering wood for a fire. In hunting for this wood, he stepped into some quicksand and had sunk in up to his neck before he was pulled to safety by some men who heard his cry. Our brother elaborated on the procedure which is necessary to build a structure, especially the foundation which will support the building and urged us to take the same precautions in building our spiritual lives. Christ is the chief cornerstone on which we should build.

Brother Joe Genaro followed and in his discourse made the comparison that we should be as lively stones. He urged us to be constantly building. Brother Joe pointed out that when sacrifices were made to God in the old Testament, the people always offered the best they had. God offered the best, His son Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sins and we should also give our best in His service. We have been called to represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a chosen people. He reminded us that the ministry of this church did not receive the authority from the theological seminaries of man but it is a Royal Priesthood called by God.

After Brother Genaro concluded his preaching, Hymn No. 66, "We have an Anchor" was sung. As soon as we had finished singing the last verse, Brother Frank Altomare arose and spoke the word of the Lord as follows: "Oh my people, my people, my people, I shall speak unto you at this moment, that the hour of the Gentiles is drawing near. This is the time that my people must be built upon the ROCK, Oh, which is Christ, because thou shalt see one of the greatest bloodsheds to be upon the face of the earth. Oh my priesthood, Oh the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, keep praying. Great sorrow is going to come upon this Nation, upon the world. Pray for your families. Pray for your children. Such great sorrow is near. Thus saith the Lord, open your hearts unto me.

Leave the vain things of this world go. Come unto me and I will bless you. I will give you that comfort. I will comfort my people in that day. If they are built upon that ROCK, which is CHRIST."

Brother Frank Calabrese, our next speaker continued to exhort us to keep building on that solid Rock. So that we will be able to withstand the storms that are before us. He called our attention to the fact that no matter what course our nation tries to follow, it appears to become mired deeper in quicksand, and seems powerless to help itself.

Brother Elmer Santilli briefly expressed himself especially concerning the graveness of world events and advised us that the best bomb shelter we can build is by building on Christ.

At this juncture of the service we sang "Fear Not Brethren, Lo tis Jesus", and Brother Joe Gennaro was anointed for an affliction. Brother Paul D'Amico addressed us next and he thanked the brothers and sisters for prayers on his behalf. Brother Paul became ill while visiting the church in California and had to return home suddenly. He asked that we continue to pray for him.

Our district President, Brother Joe Calabrese concluded our service by summarizing the words that came forth this morning and extended an invitation to those who were not baptized to come and build their lives on that solid foundation.

Sister Rose Palacios related a dream she had on the Thursday preceding our District conference. In her dream she saw Brother Ansel D'Amico was the opening speaker and also heard the word of the Lord come forth. She also saw Brother Joe Genaro come down off the pulpit to be anointed and the elder who anointed him sang hymn No. 9 "Fear Not Brethren" instead of uttering a prayer.

Sister Carmela D'Amico related an experience she had as she walked into the meeting room. She saw a bunch of long stemmed roses laying on the pulpit and a white vase sitting on the communion table. As each elder arose to speak, he took one of the roses and placed it into the vase. It became a beautiful bouquet of roses.

Our service was closed by singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" and prayer was offered by Brother Frank Giovannone.

Florida District Conference

The Florida District conference was held in the Lake Worth Church building on February 17 and 18. Meetings for both days were held in the Branch building. The building has recently been enlarged and on Sunday, by count 156 people were in attendance. The Lake Worth members have worked very hard and are to be congratulated they have a beautiful place in which to worship.

On Saturday, February 17, the elders met in the morning and transacted the District business that is required of them covering the second half of the year 1978 in preparation for the General Church conference. Members were allowed to attend the afternoon meeting during which the reports of the various officers and committees were given. Election of officers for the coming year was

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THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR
Richard Scaglione

EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION
MANAGER
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

DISTRICT
EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817
CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio
MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N8R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

HE IS RISEN

The month of April is the time when spring gradually begins to assert itself and break the cold, icy grip of winter. It is the season when nature comes alive again, also inspiring us with new hope and expectation. It is a time that influences our thoughts to dwell increasingly on the story of our Lord's resurrection.

We rejoice in the message of the Angel of the Lord, "... HE IS RISEN."

Grand Declaration

Surely, this is one of the grandest declarations as recorded in our Holy Bible.

We are stirred by the Apostle Matthew's brief, but eloquent account of our Lord's notable victory over death:

"In the end of the Sabbath Day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the Angel answered and said unto the women, 'Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for HE IS RISEN, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay.'" (*Matthew 28:1-6*)

We rejoice in our Lord's mighty victory over the power of death. We believe it also was a reintroduction of the principle of continuous or external existence, not only for Himself, but for all of the human family. This is verified by the Apostle Matthew's account of a notable event immediately following our Lord's resurrection:

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the Saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." (*Matthew 28:52,53*) Another scripture is found in the *Book of Mormon, III Nephi 23:9,10,11* which records that a similar notable event also took place in the land of America, attesting to the resurrection of our Lord in the land of Palestine. We read that, "many Saints did arise and appear unto many and did minister unto them."

A Time Of Rejoicing

What a time of rejoicing it must have been when many of those who resurrected with our Lord appeared unto many of the faithful in the holy city Jerusalem. Perhaps included among them were Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Daniel, to name a few.

Likewise on this land of America, there must have been great rejoicing when many Saints arose with our Lord, appearing and ministering unto many. Perhaps included among them were Jared and his brother, Lehi, Nephi, and good King Benjamin, to name a few. We, too, look forward to a great time of rejoicing:

"What a joy will be there, At the great resurrection
As the Saints meet in air, In their robes of perfection;"

Hymn No. 31 in the Saints Hymnal

HALLELUJAH! CHRIST AROSE!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

An Unnamed Woman

Dear Girls and Boys,

One day Simon, a Pharisee invited Jesus to come to his house and eat. When they sat down to eat, an unnamed woman entered with an alabaster box of ointment. She was known as a sinner. She stood at Jesus' feet weeping. She began to wash his feet with her tears and wipe them with the hair of her head. She kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Simon thought, "This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman she is that toucheth him, for she is a sinner." Now Jesus knew his thoughts and said, "Simon, I have something to say to thee." Simon said, "Master say on."

Jesus then told Simon a parable about the creditor and his two debtors. One owed five hundred pence and the other fifty. Because neither of them could pay their debts, the creditor forgave them both. Jesus asked Simon, "Which of them will love him most?" Then Simon answered, "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." Jesus said, "Thou hast rightly judged."

Jesus turned to the woman and Simon and reminded him that he had not even offered him the courtesy of washing his feet when he entered the house, which was the custom. But this humble woman had not ceased to kiss his feet and anoint him with ointment and her sins which are many are forgiven. For like the parable, "to whom little is forgiven, loveth little, but to whom many sins are forgiven, much love is shown."

Jesus turned to the woman and said, "Thy sins are forgiven." Others who were sitting at meat with Jesus thought, "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" Jesus said to the woman, "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace."

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

DISTRICT CONFERENCES . . .

(Continued from page 4)

taken care of and for the most part all officers were reelected. Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. of Lake Worth was recommended to the coming General Church Conference to continue as President of the District.

The Sunday meeting convened at 10 a.m. and one of the Apostles assigned to the Florida District, Brother Nick Pietrangelo of Detroit was the chief speaker. (Brother V. J. Lovalvo also assigned to this area was not able to attend due to illness.) Brother Pietrangelo spoke of the recent Apostles meeting in Arizona and his theme

was "UNITY". He used as his text verses from the 4th chapter of Ephesians and also quoted from the 133rd Psalm, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity!". We were told that when we attain UNITY that God will bless us, that we will become a righteous people, that the gifts will be restored and revelations will take place. The result will be we will have strength to give and share what we have in the gospel with others. We were exhorted to take active part in all church activities, including General Church, District, Branch, MBA, Ladies Circle and Sunday School. He further stated we should attend all meetings and return to our first love. Also, we should continue to fast and pray and the Lord will bless us. Apostle Brother Bittinger, who was also in our midst, followed Brother Pietrangelo and confirmed what had been said and related his personal experiences in the service of God among the Lamanites and Africans. Communion was served and we can say that our Sunday conference meeting was wonderful and made quite an impression on all. We are pleased that the Lord works today among His people as He did in the days past. May we be able to recognize what is required of us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ and work to attain this UNITY which our brothers spoke of and so beautifully explained.

Elsie M. Ensana

Florida District Editor

G.M.B.A. Activities Committee Meet In Imperial, Pa.

Brothers and Sisters representing Pennsylvania, Atlantic Coast, Ohio, and Michigan-Ontario Area of the G.M.B.A. were in attendance on Saturday, February 10, 1979 at the activities meeting held at Imperial, Pennsylvania. After G.M.B.A. President Donald Ross made a few opening remarks, the meeting was opened with a hymn and prayer.

A committee formed to investigate the possibility of procuring a campsite presented a well-organized report which cited some of the benefits of owning and operating our own church camp. After their report, Brother Ross opened the meeting for discussion and many constructive comments both pro and con were offered by several of those in attendance. The report was accepted and the committee thanked everyone for their ideas. The meeting was recessed for lunch which was graciously served by our Brothers and Sisters of the Imperial Branch.

The afternoon began with the topic of Campout 79 which will be held from June 9-16 at Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Brother Gary Carlini, from the Michigan-Ontario Area, was elected camp director and will choose those who are to assist him in the tedious job of organizing the various activities to be held at this summer's spiritual gathering.

Other topics discussed included the Book of Mormon Concordance, Book of Mormon Lesson Plans, Primary Lesson Plans, the current status of the Lay Missionary Program and the update of the M.B.A. by-laws.

Also discussed was a proposal dealing with the sale of patches commemorating each of our G.M.B.A. Campouts. All in attendance agreed that we, as an M.B.A. must

support our local M.B.A. Presidents by encouraging our young people to attend. Furthermore, it was agreed upon that we must use our initiative to develop fund raising projects for the M.B.A. in order to develop a sense of accomplishment and promote unity among our young people at the Local Level as well as the G.M.B.A.

All in attendance enjoyed our short time together and the G.M.B.A. sends a special thanks to our Brothers and Sisters in Imperial for their warmth and hospitality.

Sister Elizabeth Davidson Marks Her 107th Birthday

Sister Elizabeth Cadman Davidson recently celebrated her one hundred and seventh birthday. She is the daughter of the late Brother William and Sister Elizabeth Worrall Cadman, who came to the United States from England in 1856.

She was born on February 16, 1872 in a log house on the Mose Thompson farm in Jefferson Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and was named Elizabeth Amanda Heath Cadman. In a family of twelve children, she was the youngest girl. Of this large family of children, she is the only one living.

Her early years were spent in the Cadman home-stead on Hogback Hill near West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at the age of fifteen years by Brother William Skillen, the father of our late Sister Hannah Skillen.

Sister Davidson cared for her aged parents for many years. Her mother was an invalid for over nine years after suffering a stroke. After the death of her parents, she moved to the state of Kansas to live with her brothers, Alma and William Cadman. She has enjoyed travelling and has been in the South and Southwest and has also visited England.

She later was a nurse-companion to Miss Anna Scott, making their home in Florida and North Carolina. After the death of Miss Scott, she married Mr. William Davidson of McKeesport, Pennsylvania. The Davidson family at one time were also members of The Church of Jesus Christ. After their marriage, the Davidsons lived in the old Cadman home near West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania.

Sister Davidson now lives with fellow residents at the Metcalf Home in Floreffe, Pennsylvania.

She was the first GMBA President. She held the office of Vice President of the General Ladies Circle for many years and also served as a General Church Deaconess.

"Aunt Dee", as she is affectionately known by her many nephews and nieces, makes each one feel "It is good to be a Saint of Latter Days."

The following scripture is fitting for Sister Elizabeth Cadman Davidson: "Honor thy father and mother that thy days may be long upon the land which The Lord thy God giveth thee." *Exodus 20:12.*

WEST AFRICAN ECHO

By Joseph Bittinger

(Continued from last issue)

The hotel was a very comfortable place to stay. Located near the waterfront you could look out over the ocean from your room and see the boats and ships in the distance.

Friday we loaded up everything again and drove downtown looking for some place to buy groceries. We located a couple of food stores and bought a few items to take into Ghana with us. We were uncertain as to the amount we could take across the border. We could have taken much more had we known, and we certainly needed it after our arrival.

We left Lome 9:30 a.m., crossed the border into Ghana that was very close to the city, passing through some nice farming country. In one area there were many tomatoes for sale; we wanted to buy some, but we had no Cedis, Ghana money. We neglected to get any money changed as we entered the country. Perhaps this taught us all a lesson that it is advisable to change some money when entering any foreign country.

We arrived in Accra at 2:30 p.m., and located the Pan American Airlines office. We made reservations for Brother Phil and I, to return home on Sunday, August 13th. Pan Am. has only one flight per week leaving from Accra and that's on Sunday.

Leaving here we continued to Kumasi, 165 miles northwest, arriving at the City Hotel about 8:30 p.m. We were disappointed to find that we had no reservations and there was no vacancy. After trying several times to persuade them to give us some kind of quarters, we were unable to locate any other place of lodging for the night. We were all very tired. Nephi and Lorraine were both tired and exhausted from driving, so they parked the car in the lighted area in front of the hotel. We sat in the car until morning. We tried to sleep but it was very difficult even to rest.

I felt sorry for the two boys, Nephi, Jr. and Jared, they were sleeping on the third seat in the rear of the car and it is smaller in size. They were having quite a struggle each trying to keep possession during the night.

Saturday morning came and we began looking for rooms without success. We drove out into the country about 20 miles to a village trying to locate Brother Ford Boadu; we found no one there who knew him. We had gone to the wrong village, having the same name. The one where Brother Boadu lives is much closer to Kumasi, as we found out later.

We returned and were able to get two rooms for one night at the Stadium Hotel; the rooms and beds were reasonably acceptable, but no private bath facilities.

In the evening Brother Boadu came to visit with us; he had heard of our being there. We were very glad to see him and it removed some of the uncertainty that we had experienced in not locating him sooner.

We learned that food was very scarce, also very high in price, also hotel rooms and meals were exorbitant.

On Sunday morning accommodations were available for us at the City Hotel and we moved in. Four Brothers

and two Sisters came to greet us and visited with us for about one hour. We were glad for the opportunity to meet and talk with them. One Sister asked to be anointed, she was not feeling well. They were some of the first members baptized here in Ghana.

Brother Ford Boadu came Monday morning and we went to the Immigration Office to get our Visas extended, Brother Phil and I for one week, Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine for two weeks.

Next, we went to Ghana Airways and made reservations to Accra, for 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Brother Boadu made arrangements to go with us.

In the evening, we held a meeting in Nawasi Village, outside in the street and in the darkness, except for a couple of kerosene lights on the speaker's stand. They have a battery powered audio speaker for speaking and singing and they certainly like it loud.

They have a small group of "Restored Gospel Singers" and they certainly enjoy singing. Their hymns and singing is almost totally in their native tongue, TWI. We recognized very few of the hymns they sang.

After each of us was introduced to the audience by Brother Boadu, Brother Nephi did most of the speaking to the congregation. There must have been about 200 people present, the lack of lighting made it very difficult to determine the approximate number.

Before the meeting, we had been taken to meet the Chief, (this is a customary requirement before endeavoring to hold any kind of meetings within the area of his jurisdiction). He is a rather young man, very intelligent and enlightening to talk with.

He said in Ghana the people are preferring younger men for Chiefs and he believes this is good for the country; young men are for more progress for their people, hoping to improve their standard of living if possible.

He also attended the service. He expressed himself as being in favor of establishing the Church in his Village area, if it would contribute to uplifting the people to a better way of life.

Tuesday, Sister Lorraine, Brothers Boadu and Phil located a better and much cheaper place for us to live.

The Assembly of God Guest House was available for us to use, not far from the City Hotel we were staying in. We were all happy and thankful for the opportunity to vacate the hotel.

In the evening we held an outside night meeting in Boko Village, perhaps 100 people attended. Most of them had to stand during the service, this was true of all the services. We were late in getting started and the night was very dark. There was a similarity to all these meetings. We were glad for the opportunity to visit and speak to all these people, endeavoring to support Brother Boadu in his desire to preach the Gospel and firmly establish The Church of Jesus Christ in the Kumasi area.

Wednesday morning we moved into the Guest House. Here we had a fully furnished house with electrical facilities, a very nice and comfortable place to live, at about one third of the cost at the hotel. Here we were able to have better food at less cost by Nephi and Lorraine shopping around to buy food wherever it could be found at any price.

On Thursday morning Brother Boadu came and we

all went to visit the zoo. He wanted the boys, Nephi, Jr. and Jared to see all the animals, a change of interest for them on this long trip away from home.

Nephi had a new headlight lens put on the car, the cost 110 Cedis, (about \$70.00) at the prevailing exchange rate.

The meeting this evening was held in Twedie Village, mostly children and young people. The meeting was short, Brothers Boadu and Nephi each spoke briefly. There had been a wake held for a dead man in this same area, some of those attending the wake came to our service and the people became noisy. Brother Boadu called for order and when the noise continued the meeting was closed.

Friday, 11th August, Brother Boadu came this morning as he has done every day since he learned we were here. He has helped us in every way possible for him to do so, and we have appreciated his help very much.

This evening meeting was held in Hiakose Village; after the introduction was made, I spoke from Eph. 5 Chapter. Brother Boadu followed in speaking to the large audience in attendance. This was our last meeting before leaving for home.

Saturday morning we arose early, Sister Lorraine prepared breakfast for us. Brother Boadu came and we took some pictures of all present. At 7:20 a.m. we left for Kumasi Airport. Brother Boadu was going with us to Accra. Nephi, Lorraine and the boys stayed to see our flight take off.

They were feeling a little sorry and so were we, that we were leaving. Circumstances being as they were, we would return home and they would stay another week before starting on their return to Nigeria.

The flight to Accra takes less than thirty minutes. This was Brother Boadu's first time to travel by plane. He spent the day with Phil and I. He left our hotel room about 7:00 p.m. to return home. May God bless him for his help and concern for us while visiting in his country.

Sunday morning we arrived at the airport at 7:00 a.m. to get clearance by Immigration and Customs.

Our flight departed Kotoka Airport at 10:40 local time. At Dakar we turned our time back 4 hours. We arrived at New York about 8:30 p.m. By the time we had passed through Customs we could not get any flight to Pittsburgh before 8:40, Monday morning; all we could do was wait.

As we arrived at 10:00 a.m. my wife and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stroko were waiting for us. They had taken me to the airport when we left, now they were waiting for our return. We were happy and glad to see them waiting for us. My wife had remained at home alone while I was away for this two months period of time. We were glad to see each other again, also thankful to God for giving each of us good health and watching over each of us while we were apart and my safe return home.

We left Brother Phil at the Airport where he soon caught a plane to Detroit.

My evaluation of this visit to Nigeria and Ghana, to visit the Church in those areas: It was necessary, successful and very rewarding to myself and many others.

Thank God for the Glorious Restoration in the Latter Days!

"To the poor the gospel is preached".

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—**Blessings In Orlando, Florida**

Back: Brother Charles E. Smith. Front: Sisters Bertha Sommerville, Margaret Ward, Ilene Smith.

I pray God will help me share His blessings with you that he has bestowed upon us recently. In November of last year, my husband, Buck, my three children, my father, (Brother John Ward) and myself set out for Florida. We were going to visit my dear grandmother and aunt in Orlando. My father was getting over a sick spell and we were taking him there to spend some time over the winter months that he might regain his strength.

We arrived in time for Thanksgiving and we had a beautiful day together. Surely our hearts were filled. We had much to be thankful for. My children had not seen their great-grandmother and aunt in several years. It was a blessed occasion.

My grandmother, Sister Margaret Ward was baptised into The Church of Jesus Christ 73 years ago this coming October by Brother Alexander Cherry at Pricedale, Pa., and has been a member of the Roscoe Branch since that time. She is 89 years old and God has blessed her with a very strong and active mind. She moved to Florida in 1970.

My aunt, Sister Bertha Sommerville was baptized in 1939 at Dunlevy, Pa., later moved to Detroit and was a member of the Port Huron mission there before moving to Florida in 1970.

The Saints have held many meetings at my aunt's home in Orlando. My uncle, Brother Charles Smith, Evangelist, and his wife, Sister Ilene, make the trip from Ft. Pierce once a month to hold a meeting there. Others attend many times, including several Brothers and Sisters from the Ft. Pierce Branch.

On November 26 we had the joy of being present at such a meeting. Brother Smith opened the meeting speaking of Jonah's experience with the Lord in disobeying His commandment and the results thereof. God's spirit accompanied the message brought forth. The Lord's Sup-

per was served and many testimonies given. When Grandma testified, I noticed the attentiveness of my children and thanked God that they had the opportunity to be here. What a blessing to have four generations in God's service together, grandma, my father, myself and my children.

I received much strength in the testimonies given. What a privilege to see Grandma, after 73 years in the gospel and many trials and afflictions, testify with a great determination and love for the Lord. She has buried her husband, and 6 of her 9 children, and suffered much sickness over the years including a broken hip resulting in two operations recently.

Last summer we were called down to Florida as she was very ill from an infection which seemed to be taking its toll. We thought her work must be finished and the end near. One night I slept on the couch in the room by grandma to watch her closely. I could hear her praying through the night. She was not praying for her own self, but I could hear her say, "Bless The Church Of Jesus Christ, Bless the President, Bless the First Counsellor, Bless the Second Counsellor". This was such a blessing to me.

Before I left I had the privilege to wash Grandma's and my aunt's feet. God has been so good to me. I can not express what I felt at this time.

When we arrived in November, I was so surprised to see Grandma had recovered so well from such a grave sickness. She looked new, strengthened, and revived. Before we left for back home I could see Grandma's work was not done yet. I know God was still using her. She was a great blessing to us. Over the years the many experiences Grandma has told me have come back to me when I needed them. She has had and seen many wonderful experiences since rendering obedience to the Lord many years ago.

The last line of Brother Alexander Cherry's hymn comes to our mind, "I'll tell my friends, and all I know, How Christ has blessed me here below. He's changed my life, and all my ways, From foolish talk to hymns of praise."

We pray that we may also be able to share what God has done for us with our children and all those we meet and that we may prove faithful to the Lord, determined to reap that celestial reward.

May God Bless you,

Sister Bertha Jean Bileky
Editor, Roscoe Branch

A Day To Remember - Ft. Pierce Branch February 11, 1979

This Sunday is another to be pleasantly remembered. Brother Nick Pietrangelo and his companion were in our midst. We were happy to see them again for it had been a year since we saw them last. Brother Sam Costarella, our presiding elder, as is his habit when one of our visiting priesthood comes, graciously turned the meeting over to him. Brother Pietrangelo chose the subject in Matthew on the straight and narrow way. The spirit of God truly persuaded his heart for the joy could be felt as we looked

upon him, and the warning of this message unfolded. Though we are in the world, we are not of the world. We are not to allow that this or that is OK, for in so doing we consent to the ways of the world. We are followers of the truth in the Gospel of Jesus Christ which leads neither to the left nor the right, but straight ahead upon the narrow path of righteousness. Our brother also cautioned against false prophets, from both within and without.

Satan's time is short and even the very elect can be deceived. Our brother related several experiences from years past for our edification.

The afternoon meeting brought forth many beautiful testimonies. Brother Nick then expressed his joy in hearing these and called for the hymn "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul". Tongues were spoken and the interpretation was that God accepts the praise and testimonies, for we give honor and glory to His High and Holy name and as we open our hearts we receive greater blessings.

I praise God for the messages we receive from our brothers in God's service. These things should be stored in our hearts to draw upon in troublesome times. As the meeting drew to a close, a circle was formed and Brother Pietrangelo offered the closing prayer. Surely our cups were filled and we felt fortified to face the days until we meet again.

May God bless and keep each of you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mary Glover

Fort Pierce Circle Is Host To Florida District Circles

On Saturday, February 3, the Ladies Circle of Ft. Pierce, invited the sisters of the Florida District to a luncheon with the thought of getting better acquainted in the Lord and to share our testimonies with one another. We were happy with the cooperation of our sisters, a delicious luncheon was prepared and especially for the good spirit of fellowship.

After the luncheon, we went into the meeting room where all enjoyed praising God with singing, testimonies and prayers. Sister Ann Costarello, the president, welcomed all with a few words of greeting and the reading of the 100th Psalm. Brothers Bittinger and Ensana, with their wives, were on their way to Tampa stopped in and spent wonderful moments with the sisters. Brother Bittinger spoke words of encouragement and praise to all sisters. A poem read by Sister Edna Bittinger "What Is A Sister" was enjoyed.

A hymn sung by all expressed our joy—

Oh! say but I'm glad, I'm glad,
Oh! say but I'm glad,
Our sisters are here,
Our cups overrun,
Oh! say but I'm glad.

We are looking forward with hopes that this gathering of the sisters will be the beginning of many meetings in the future.

Sister Ann Costarella

Tampa Branch

On Saturday night, February 3, Tampa Branch had a special meeting to show slides of our Church in Africa.

Brother Tony and Sister Elsie Ensana accompanied Brother and Sister Joseph Bittinger to the Branch to give the presentation. The slides gave us all a much better insight to the work that the Church and Brother Nephi have accomplished. It made us all feel a little closer to our Brothers and Sisters on the other side of the world. After the presentation, we had refreshments and a chance to fellowship with one another. The entire evening was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, we were again fortunate to have the visiting Brothers and Sisters with us. Brother Joe spoke on St. Matthew, Chapter 20 on the parable of the vineyard. Brother Tony followed with a few remarks.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

Sister Wendy Risola
Branch Editor

Baptism In Phoenix

It was a beautiful day as the Arizona District held its semi-annual conference on Saturday, February 18, 1979 and was topped when Nunzio Lombardo requested baptism. He was baptized a week later by Brother Barry Mazzeo and confirmed by Brother Ether Fournier.

Tucson, Arizona Branch

We, of the Tucson Branch, feel to thank God for His blessings and for His Spirit which has strengthened us during a most trying time for Brother Jake Christman's family and for our Branch.

Many Brothers and Sisters have visited us, encouraging us to keep our faith and trust in God strong during these times of trial. Brothers Phil Damore, Pete Capone, Barry Mazzeo, Steve Saffron Ron Nichols and their families, have all at different times left their homes to worship together with us. We have enjoyed their words to us very much because we have found much food for thought in the Holy Word.

We are also pleased and happy that Sister Linda Micale from Tampa, Florida is attending the University of Arizona here in Tucson and will be worshipping with us for a while. May God bless her in all her efforts both at school and in her life.

We would like to pay special tribute to our dear Brother Jake Christman. We remember at our Christmas service how he made a great effort to be there. He was very sick and weak, yet he wanted to be with the Brothers and Sisters that day. We all enjoyed his presence there and the program and service which honored the birth of the Son of God. Brother Jake was too weak to testify, but asked that we sing as his testimony Hymn No. 23, "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath." This turned out to be the last service he would be able to attend.

Brother Jake had looked forward to the Quorum of Twelve meeting held in Phoenix. Though sorely afflicted, it brought him much happiness and joy to see that so many of the Twelve Apostles, including Brother Dominic

Thomas, General Church President, came to Tucson to pray and visit with him.

He loved to have visitors and recently his daughter, Sister Nancy Botwright with her three children, Kim, Kelly, and Tom and Sister Cindy Everett, his granddaughter from Detroit Branch No. 1, were able to spend a little time with him.

God saw fit to call our Brother Jake from this life on February 21, 1979. Through all his suffering, his great faith and trust in God was never diminished. He was a wonderful example to all of us. He was a very humble man, who shunned the limelight, yet whose actions demonstrated his love for those less fortunate by sharing that which he had with them. A true soldier of the cross who has gone now to be with his Savior and all the righteous who have gone before.

We request an interest in your prayers for all his family and for our Branch that we might continue on and further the work which he started in this part of the vineyard. God bless you all.

Brother Paul Francione
Tucson Branch Editor



February 6, 1979

To the Brothers and Sisters of
The Church of Jesus Christ,

We would like to extend an invitation to any and all of you who might be travelling through the State of Oklahoma the last weekend of May 1979. On Saturday, May 26, 1979 we will be having an open house to observe our 25th wedding anniversary. Please feel free to drop in on us at that time.

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall
404 E. Oklahoma
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
Phone: 405-247-6712



MINDS TOO, NEED CULTIVATING. Good crops spring from fertilized and tended land—great thoughts from enriched and disciplined minds. Nourish the mind, for the mind contains the most precious of all seeds—the ideas that shape our world.



— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the following new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Anthony Joseph to Dennis and Joyce Moraco of Broward County Mission, Florida;

Charles Wayne to Dennis and Christine Roberts of Roscoe, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

ONORATO - CRESSEY

Darryl Onorato and Kathleen A. Cressey of Wiscasset, Maine were joined in holy wedlock on Saturday, January 6, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in North Edgecomb, Maine.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the grooms father, Brother Richard Onorato.

The bride's grandmother, Mrs. Eleanor Libby, played the organ for the wedding and also for the reception.

The couple will reside in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

ONORATO - HUNTLEY

Robert Onorato and Cynthia Huntley were united in marriage on Saturday, September 2, 1978 at The Church of Jesus Christ, North Edgecomb, Maine.

The grooms brother, Brother Richard Onorato performed the wedding ceremony.

The couple are residing at Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

MASSARI - MAZZARULLI

Mr. Michael A. Massari and Mrs. Kathryn E. Mazzarulli were united in Holy Matrimony on July 1, 1978 at Eastchester Gardens, Eastchester, N.Y.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother James Link, Elder of the Bronx Branch. Musical selections were presented by Sister Linda Gomes. Mr. Joseph Mazzarulli was best man and Ms. Lori Mazzarulli was maid of honor.

The bride is the granddaughter of Sister Kathryn Laperuta of the Bronx Branch.

WINKLER - KRASNOW

Mr. Heino R. Winkler and Ms. Stephanie A. Krasnow were united in Holy Matrimony on August 27, 1978 at Whitestone, N.Y.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother James Link, Elder of the Bronx Branch. Mr. Gerhard Winkler was best man and Mrs. Zelma Krasnow was maid of honor.

The bride is presently attending the Brooklyn Branch.

The couple will reside in Staten Island, New York.

NEITZEL - HOUGH

Mr. David B. Neitzel and Miss Constance L. Hough exchanged wedding vows on Saturday, February 3, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Redford, Michigan (Branch No. 4).

Brother Domenic Moraco officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sister Santina LaCivita.

The newlyweds will reside in Westland, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

PETER DE PIERO

Brother Peter De Piero, Elder of the Glassport Branch, passed on to his eternal reward on November 24, 1978. He was born on March 26, 1885 and was baptized into the church February 16, 1919. Ordained into the Ministry July 10, 1921.

Brother Pete is survived by sons Salvadore, John and Samuel; daughters Hilda Sgattone, Clara Preler and Mary Unger; twenty grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren.

Husband of the late Adela De Piero. Son of Salvadore and Carinella De Piero.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Alma Nolfi, John Ali and David Nolfi.

Brother Pete, a servant of the Lord, will be missed by all the Saints of the Glassport Branch.

JACOB FRANKLIN CHRISTMAN

Brother Jake Christman passed on to his heavenly reward, after a long illness, on February 21, 1979. He was born on April 8, 1912 and lived most of his life in Pennsylvania, except recently when he lived in Arizona.

He was baptized into The Church Of Jesus Christ on October 22, 1950 and was ordained a minister on April 15, 1956. He was instrumental in starting the Imperial, Pa. Branch and the Tucson, Arizona Branch. At the time of his death he was First Counselor of the Tucson Branch.

The memory of our Brother's life will always remain with us. His gentleness, kindness and love extended beyond his family and reached out to others. His great desire was to see many accept the Lord and become a part of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. He looked forward with great hope for the restoration of the House of Israel and also the great work to be done among the Seed of Joseph.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Martha, one sister, one son, two daughters and nine grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Robert Watson and Anthony Brutz.

HOMER G. BUFFINGTON

Brother Homer G. Buffington passed on to his final reward on January 2, 1979, following a lengthy illness. He was born in Imperial, Pa. on November 4, 1910 and baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 28, 1955.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers James P. Moore and James T. Moore.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Iona Buffington, one son, two brothers and ten grandchildren.

Brother Homer was an ordained Deacon and a faithful brother of the Church who never failed to bear his testimony. Although he will be greatly missed, his testimony will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew and loved him.

ALBERT NEIDERMEYER

Brother Albert Neidermeyer of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed from this life on December 3, 1978, which was the date of his 85th birthday.

Brother Albert was always a faithful attender to The Church, even though he was only recently baptized on October 10, 1978.

Brother Albert is survived by his loving wife, Sister Harriet, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Robert Nicklow with Brother Idris Martin assisting, with interment at Monongahela Cemetery.

Brother Albert will be greatly missed by the brothers and sisters. We pray that God will bless and comfort his family in their time of need and all the days of their lives.

ETHEL GEIB PERRY

Sister Ethel Geib Perry of Farwell, Michigan left this life on February 3, 1979. She was born on March 24, 1893 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in 1946. She was also an ordained Deaconess in The Church.

Funeral services were officiated by Brother Silverio Criscuolo.

Sister Ethel's presence will be greatly missed.

JOSEPH CAPONE

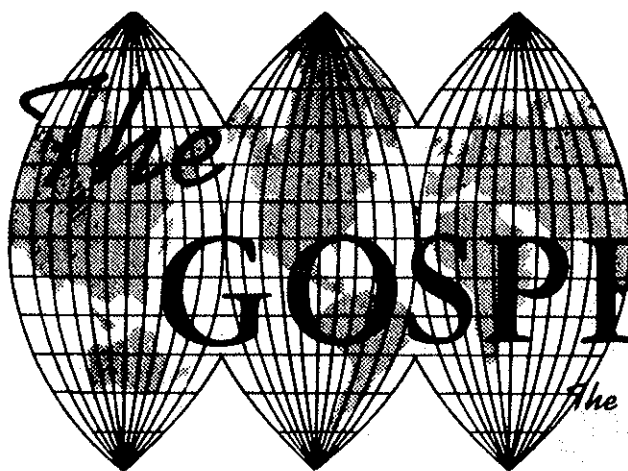
Brother Joseph Capone passed away from this life on December 26, 1978 to his Heavenly reward. He was born in Vasto-Cieti, Italy on December 31, 1889. He was baptized on September 14, 1930. Residing in Westchester, N.Y., he had attended the Bronx Branch.

Funeral Services were conducted by Brother Dominick Rose of the Brooklyn Branch and Brother James Link of the Bronx Branch.

He is survived by one daughter, Sister Betty Catalano, two grandchildren, Sister Debby Bradshaw and David, and one great grandson, Brian.

He was a Teacher in The Church for many years. His love and compassion towards all who knew him will be missed by everyone. He will always be remembered for his unwavering faith and humble belief in our Heavenly Father. Though he has left us, his testimonies will continue to be an inspiration to all that heard them.

May God bless and comfort the family.



GOSPEL NEWS

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ORDINATION OF APOSTLE AND EVANGELISTS HIGHLIGHTS GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

The semi-annual General Church Conference convened on Friday, April 20, 1979 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. From the beginning of conference to its closing on Sunday, April 22, Saints from every District of The Church were in attendance, with the Arizona and California Districts being exceptionally well represented.

The Sunday service was highlighted by the ordination of Apostle Robert A. Watson and Evangelists Nathan Peterkin and Russell Martorana. Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, presided over the meeting which was opened with several musical selections by the Redlake, Arizona Choir and prayer by Brother Rocco V. Biscotti.

Many experiences were related by members of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles regarding their meetings in Arizona during January and the calling of Brother Robert A. Watson as an Apostle.

Brother Watson's feet were then washed by Brother Frank Calabrese. As Brother Dominic Thomas was ordaining Brother Watson, the word of the Lord was given as follows: "Thus saith the Lord, 'I am Alpha and Omega, before you were born and while your bones were yet being formed, I ordained you an Apostle.'" "Thus saith the Lord, 'Amen and amen.'"

Next followed the ordination of two of the three Evangelists who were called at this conference. (Brother Eugenio Mora was called and will be ordained at a later date.) Brother Nathan Peterkin's feet were washed by Brother Richard Christman, and he was ordained by Brother Reno Bologna. Brother Russell Martorana's feet were washed by Brother Dominic Moraco, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

The gift of tongues was spoken at two different times during the service, the interpretations being as follows:

—"I see you today as I saw you before, and you are in my grace."

—"You are my people, and I shall be with you always."

Also, Sister Rose Palacios stood and testified that three weeks prior to conference, she had a dream in which she saw the Three Nephites and the Lord in our midst at conference. She also saw this in a vision during the Sunday meeting.

Following the ordinations, many Saints came forward to be anointed for affliction, and several handkerchiefs were anointed for the sick who were unable to attend conference.

In closing the conference, Brother Dominic Thomas recognized the newly-elected General Church officers who will serve during the coming year, as well as the seven Brothers who will be ordained into the Ministry. Brother Dominic also announced that by the end of 1979, two Brothers will visit The Church in Africa, three Brothers will travel to Italy to work in the missions there, and several Brothers will visit the mission in Argentina. Brother Anthony A. Corrado closed the meeting in prayer.

The Saints truly enjoyed a glorious conference filled with blessings and the manifestation of God's Spirit. What a joy it is to see Brothers called into the office of Elder, Evangelist and Apostle to help in the expansion of the missionary efforts of The Church. May God continue to bless and prosper The Church.

A PRAYER

Thou who has brought into being
earth and heavens at Thy word;
set the tides that move the oceans
and shaped each sound that we have heard.

Mixed the colors for the rainbow
made the mountains, brooks, and trees;
set the order of the seasons
gave us life — and made us free.

Free to choose for good or evil
to live by faith, or faithless fall;
gave us hope for life eternal
if we would but heed Thy call.

Father, when we try to thank Thee
'tis hard to find the words we seek;
but oh the sweet and lovely praises
If our hearts could only speak.

Sister Betty Davis
Hopelawn, N. J. Branch

A TESTIMONY



I thank God for allowing my husband, Brother Anthony DiFalco, and I to see 55 years of marriage. Recently we had our anniversary. He has been a Deacon for 30 years.

I would like to take this time to thank God for His many blessings and to relate some experiences. Foremost, I thank God for calling my husband and me into the Gospel on the same day. The night before we were baptized, I had a dream. I saw two people all dressed in black near the river's edge. A Brother took one of the persons out into the river and asked him to make a covenant with God to serve Him the rest of his life. That person came out of the waters dressed in white, followed by another person clothed in white. I knew without a doubt that God was calling my husband and me. It has been 47 years since that day, and we still feel that same glory.

At this time, I would also like to thank God for a miracle that happened in my son, Sam DiFalco's, life. He was afflicted with a serious illness, and one day the doctor came to me and explained that my son would have to have another operation. He had already been through one major operation. The doctor was very straightforward and said that he could not promise that the operation would be a success, that they would have to take a chance, because Sam was near death.

The night before the operation at 2:00 A.M., I was visited in the hospital room by two Elders who did not know about the operation. Brothers Jim and Joe Lovalvo prayed for my son, and they said, "God has sent us to pray for him". Because of their prayers, the operation that lasted five hours was a success. My son got well, and he got baptized. He is now a teacher in The Church.

We have been blessed with 10 children, 35 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 7 daughters-in-law and 3 sons-in-law. Some belong to this Church, and I hope some day before I die, I will see all my children in this beautiful Gospel.

Sister Raffeala DiFalco

"THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WORKER IN THE VINEYARD"

The scriptures contain many references to workers in the Lord's vineyard. These references can be found in both the Bible and Book of Mormon. The scriptures teach us very clearly the responsibilities and tasks that a worker in the Lord's vineyard must shoulder.

Primarily, we are charged with maintaining a vine that is a true vine. The true vine must be well balanced, that is to say that the root must be strong enough to sustain the branches. The Church has been given the task of preaching the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. God has given us a pure and unadulterated Gospel. Jesus Christ established the original Church which was the true vine. After Christ's departure and the death of the original apostles the branches of the vine began to grow faster and further than the root could sustain them. The branches began to shoot out in strange and unruly ways. In St. John 15:4 and 5, Christ says, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

The Apostle Paul spent the duration of his ministry working hard to strengthen the root as well as helping the branches grow and spread. He became deeply concerned that the root would be weakened and warned his fellow workers of the unruly branches and false doctrines that would creep in. In Galatians 1:8 and 9 Paul says, "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." He also stated quite plainly that grievous wolves would enter in not sparing the flock. Paul was very desirous of spreading the Gospel and enlarging branches of the vine, but not so desirous that he would allow the branches to grow and spread into false doctrine or be sustained by anything less than the true Gospel or the true vine.

Christ taught us many valuable lessons in regards to planting, tending and nourishing. He taught the parable of the sower that went out to sow and cast his seed on various kinds of ground. We should take notice that some seed sprang up quickly in shallow ground. To the unskilled or non-discerning worker, this would cause excitement and gratification, but Christ teaches us that because the ground was shallow the plant had very little root and it withered quickly. Jesus did not say the seed was bad. The sower had all good seed but the root was not sufficient to sustain the plant because the soil had not been prepared and the root nourished.

How do we nourish the root and strengthen it? The Lord teaches us that we must dig about it and nourish it. In St. Luke 13:8 and 9 Christ says, "And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not then after that thou shalt cut it down." We cannot stand back in exultation and marvel at how fast and widespread the branches grow. It is the nature of a vine to spread its branches withersoever it might. A vineyard worker must dig about the root and nourish it. He must

also prune and train the branches in order to direct them in the way that they must grow in order to maintain a true vine and good fruit.

To be sure, it brings pleasure and excitement as the branches and young tendrils spread out and grow, reaching and grasping as they do. But the husbandman, the vineyard worker, the keeper of the vineyards, responsibility is theirs to maintain and nourish the vine so that it produces the true fruit. He must protect the vine and give constant vigil so that it does not produce wild or bitter fruit. This type of fruit could cause the Lord of the vineyard to pluck up the vines and destroy them.

We are living in a period of time wherein the vines are beginning to spread and reach out, seed is being sown. Our roots have been strong and true for many years and now we see the beginning of tender vines and branches reaching out and some growing rather quickly, others not so quickly but nonetheless growing. The seed that is being sown still falls on various types of ground with the same results that Christ taught us to expect. Remember, it is good seed, the vine is the true vine and the root is good from which it has sprung. What is our role then as the worker? We must dig and dung and nourish the root and prune and train the young spreading vines. We cannot become over anxious and accept wild or false growth, which are in reality false beliefs and adulterated truths. We cannot allow the good to become entangled with the bad just for the sake of growth. We cannot allow the plant to spring up quickly in shallow and unfertile ground. We must continue to prepare the ground by digging it deep and by nourishing the root, also by inclining the young plant in the way it should grow.

Christ taught us in parables but he also taught us plainly. What is the plain and simple message he wanted us to perceive? It is simply this, we cannot be over anxious when we spread the gospel. We must very carefully nourish, teach, sustain and incline our converts in the way that they should grow. We cannot accept any growth or direction on their part that would subvert the true vine and good fruit. We cannot allow our converts to grow without nourishment, contact and direction from the Parent Church. We must teach line upon line and precept upon precept. We cannot allow the false hope of quick and easy success to detract us from our appointed tasks as husbandmen and workers in the vineyard. The growth of the true vine requires time and workers that will dig and water and God will give the increase.

We have the true vine, the good seed, and the tools to work with. Let us not neglect the daily tasks, the arduous tasks, the necessary tasks in order to nurture, sustain and incline the new converts. Many times we say we would like to, but time or distance prevents us. The seed sown will grow even in the most nether parts and shallow soils of the vineyard. They will spring up and spread out and some will bring forth bad fruit, some will perish if we do not fulfill our responsibility. The world will look at the vine from which they have sprung and more important so will God the Father. Our role is to maintain the doctrines and the teachings of Christ. We cannot allow them to become adulterated by reason of our desire for wide-spread growth. Christ taught us we must provide for an orderly and controlled growth not accepting ideas, customs, morals or traditions that would subvert the vine. Yes, we must preach to all nations and accept all people.

Brother Richard Christman

BECAUSE IT IS SPRING

Some like Spring the best of all seasons. The blanket of snow is taken away. The grass becomes green. The flowers begin to shoot up from the earth. The birds sing anew. Babies are taken for walks in the sunshine. How glorious is God's creation. Jesus was in the grave for three days. He then arose and the Saints arose and were seen in Jerusalem. Joy filled the hearts of believers. Now the new song is growing sweeter and sweeter because an angel flew in the midst of Heaven restoring His everlasting Gospel to all the earth. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. In Jesus Christ's name we write these few lines at request.

Sister Martha Laird

HALF A CENTURY

On February 3, 1929 Sister Angeline Gioia was baptized into THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST by Brother Antonio Corrado.

To this day, she has completed 50 years in the Gospel. Our prayers are that God will continue to bless her as He has in the past.

Sister Diane Everett
Editor

SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Brother Luigi and Sister Filomena DiLuca of the Aliquippa Branch recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a family dinner held in their honor.

The DiLucas were married on April 5, 1919 in their native Italy. Upon immigrating to the United States, they came in contact with The Church of Jesus Christ through their relatives and were both baptized in West Aliquippa—Sister Filomena in 1925 and Brother Luigi in 1928.

They have seven children (one deceased), 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

May the Lord continue to bless their marriage and their lives in The Church the remainder of their days.

A CELEBRATION

Brother Eddie and Sister Minnie Amatruda were honored with a surprise party by their children for their 50th anniversary with a dinner at Marchiese Restaurant in Long Island on October 28, 1978.

Brother Dominick Rose, presiding Elder of Brooklyn, N.Y. Branch, gave a very heartwarming prayer in petitioning the Lord for a special blessing on the couple.

Brother Jerry Valenti said grace before the dinner.

Many relatives, friends and Brothers and Sisters were gathered for an evening of enjoyment with our Brother and Sister. We love them dearly for their many kindnesses and thoughtfulness shown unto all during the many years they belonged to the Church by the grace of God. Truly, a true Sister and Brother in Christ.

May the Lord bless them with many more years together.

Amelia Saccardi
Editor, Brooklyn Branch

THE IMPORTANCE OF FASTING AND PRAYING

I have never written an article for The Gospel News, but I felt that I should write this for the edification of the Church. On March 12, 1979 our Presiding Elder, Brother Louis Vitto, had a feeling that we should have our monthly Fast and Prayer Service at the home of my father and mother, Brother Tony and Sister Raffaella DiFalco. My father has been confined to his bed for about two years and has not had an opportunity to attend a fast and prayer service. Both of my parents are staunch believers in fasting and praying and never missed these services when they were able to attend.

I would like to tell you a little bit about this service held at their home. After we sang a song, Brother Louis said he would leave it open to anyone who wanted to open in prayer. I remember we all waited upon the Lord for at least a minute, then my mother jumped out of her chair and we all knelt with her as she prayed, and what beautiful words came out of her mouth. When she was finished, Brother Vitto told us that the Lord told him that Sister DiFalco was going to offer the opening prayer. We sang another song and then started to pray. At this point, none of us knew how many times the Lord was going to reveal things to us. As one Sister was praying, I saw a vision of a beautiful smiling face, and at the same time, Sister Patty Gianfirmi felt something moving through the room. There were many wonderful prayers offered up to the Lord. There were about five or six Brothers and Sisters that were anointed, and the beautiful part of this was, that almost all of them were shown by the Lord to someone else, that that person should be prayed upon. As our last Brother was being prayed for, instead of my hearing the voice of Brother Louis, I heard the voice of Brother Tony Corrado. We had a wonderful blessing in this, that the Lord had sent the voice of one of His Apostles into our midst.

When our service was being brought to a close, we were singing a hymn and we were holding hands in a circle, when all at once, Brother Louis heard the voice of God saying, "How about Brother Tony DiFalco?" He then left his place and went into the room where my dad was lying and took his hand. My mother followed him and she too took his hand. After we closed in prayer, Brother Louis told us while we were praying, my dad started to shake and he could feel the spirit penetrating through him. Also, he said in taking the hand of Brother DiFalco, "the circle was made complete."

We of the Sterling Heights Branch, are happy that Brother Dominic Thomas has asked us to fast and pray together at least once a month. We have felt the importance of fasting and praying through the many blessings the Lord has given us. Not only are we being blessed, but as we read the Gospel News, we see the Lord is blessing our Church wherever it may be.

Remember us in Sterling in your prayers and we will surely remember you.

Brother Sam DiFalco
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Florida Area MBA Campout

The annual Florida MBA Campout was held the second weekend in March from Friday, March 9th to Monday, March 12th at Camp Owaissa Bauer Park located near Homestead, Florida, south of Miami. The theme was Zion and all remarked it was almost as though we were in Zion. The camp grounds were beautiful, adorned with the tropical foliage and very neatly kept. To reach the camp grounds it was necessary to pass by acres of vegetables — corn, tomatoes, beans, also strawberries which were in the process of being harvested. We felt in our hearts how true are the words of the poet, "America The Beautiful" even here in our state of Florida.

The facilities at the campground were comfortable and Brother Joseph Catone, camp director, along with his staff did a wonderful job. Brothers and Sisters of the various locals took care of preparing and serving the meals. The seminars on Zion were divinely educational and enjoyed by all. Words cannot describe the beautiful singing during the evenings by the camp fires. Sunday services were in charge of the Florida District. Brother Jesse Carr visiting from Pennsylvania opened the meeting and he continued on the theme "Zion". He was followed by Brother Duane Lowe and Brother Anthony Ensana.

Testimonies were given and sacrament was administered. When it came time for departing, all did so, reluctantly. We praise God for the beautiful weekend, the wonderful time and the foretaste of Zion which all experienced and enjoyed. Approximately one hundred were registered for this campout.

—o—

A Letter From Sister Juanita Rogolino

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want so much to express my thanks to you each one, for your prayers. I know it was the mercy of God and the power of your prayers that have brought me through this past six months.

Surgery three times, blood poison and desolation for six months have been my companions, and had it not been for your prayers I am sure I could not have made it. Little do we know the importance of a few sincere words to God on behalf of some one in distress. How can I thank you, God alone knows the love I have for each one of you. You have been my strength when I walked through the valley, for I knew you were praying for me. May God ever keep you all and bless you. I only hope when I am called upon, that my prayer will be heard as I know yours have been.

Thank you for your prayers, your cards and letters for they have meant so much to me.

Your Sister in Christ,
Juanita Rogolino

—o—

—o—

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Bruts
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817
CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33432

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N6R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 256-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

MOTHER'S DAY

By Leonard A. Lovalvo
(Reprinted)

Mother's Day, celebrated the second Sunday of May, a day to commemorate mothers, was officially proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson. Even though President Wilson declared this special day, the actual credit goes to a woman named Anna Jarvis.

In 1905, Anna Jarvis' mother died, and, inspired by her mother's life, she began her crusade to establish a "Mother's Day". She felt that the untiring efforts of mothers should be recognized all over the world. She wrote many letters to Governors and other important people, made speeches, and toured the country in her efforts to promote the establishment of Mother's Day. She urged that the white carnation, her mother's favorite flower, be made the emblem of Mother's Day and that messages of love be sent by card or telegram.

After campaigning many years, Mother's Day was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1925; and it was officially proclaimed by President Wilson that Mother's Day should be observed on the anniversary of Anna Jarvis' mother's death.

Anna Jarvis continued her campaign throughout the world, and during her lifetime 43 countries adopted Mother's Day. She died in 1948, but before her death, she had regrets that Mother's Day had been established because it had become so commercialized. Anna Jarvis intended Mother's Day to be a day of sentiment.

It is appropriate that a day has been established to remember mother, in spite of its commercialization. Hopefully, our love and kindness shown on this day would be exhibited every day of the year. As children grow from birth, they have many needs that must be fulfilled; and often the mother is the person who satisfies these needs. Children cannot completely remember or appreciate the efforts of their mothers because children live in a world of their own. Until they themselves become parents, they cannot realize the effort, sacrifice, patience, understanding and love that a mother must give. We shall always be indebted to our mothers because they have felt it their duty to teach and train, to counsel, and raise us in the fear and admonition of the Lord. We owe all of our success to mother. It is reported that Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my dearest mother."

The following poem, written by Miriam Holdeman Mason on May 9, 1917, best sums up my feelings:

MOTHER'S DAY

Who rocked you to sleep at the close of day
In the old armchair in the dear old days
When you were so tiny you did not know
How tired she was as she rocked to and fro?
That dear one was mother.

Who mended your clothes you tore while at play,
Who wiped the childish tears away,
Who tucked you in bed at close of day,
When your evening prayer she had heard you say?
That dear one was mother.

Who helped you to bear the greater trials
When you were grown up, no longer a child,
Who helped you to say "Thy will be done"
When the greater sorrows of life had come?
That dear one was mother.

Let's make each day a Mother's Day
Help wipe the tears of sorrow away
Take care of her if she's old and gray
As she cared for us in the dear old days
Think every day of Mother.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Job's Wife

Dear Girls and Boys,

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. He was a perfect and upright man. In his family was his wife, seven sons and three daughters. Job was a rich man. He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 asses and a very large household. He was the greatest man of the east.

One day satan came and afflicted Job. All his children were killed, and his animals were destroyed. Poor Job, he was covered with boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. He was so miserable his wife said, "Curse God and die." Job said, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaketh."

It was hard for Job's wife to see him suffer. They had lost all of their children and all their possessions. Just she and her husband had survived. Their kinsfolk failed them and their friends forgot them. Job said even his breath was strange to his wife. But through all this Job praised God. He said, I know that Thou canst do everything."

Job was restored to health and prosperity. The Lord gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers, sisters and all his acquaintances came and ate bread with him in his house. They comforted him over all the evil that had befallen him. Every man gave him a piece of money and an earring of gold.

Job now had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 asses. He was blessed with seven sons and three daughters. Their names were Jemima, Kezia, and Keren-happuch. No women were as fair in all the land, as Job's daughters. Their father gave them an inheritance, along with their brothers, which was an unusual favor for daughters. The mother isn't mentioned but she too must have rejoiced. Job lived 140 years and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Church members are like coals in a fire; when they cling together they keep the flame aglow, when they separate they die out.

No enemy can come so near that God is not nearer.

A coward can praise Christ, but it takes a man of courage to follow Him.

OUR WOMEN TODAY:

Florida Area Hosts General Circle Meeting

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Meeting was held at Lake Worth, Florida on March 24, 1979. There were a number of Sisters present from Canada, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, and a chartered bus from Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The Lake Worth Circle gave a program on "Jesus Use Me". They sang songs and read Isaiah ch. 6, vs. 8 and 9. Sister Mabel Bickerton welcomed everyone and thought that the theme "Jesus Use Me" was very good. She went on to say there is a work for each one of us—if we search ourselves we can find it.

The roll call of officers was taken with most of them present. The minutes of the last meeting held at Youngstown, Ohio were read, the treasurers' and Circles' reports were also given.

The question, "What is the heritage of the servants of the Lord?", was found in the Book of Mormon, 111 Nephi 22:17. Circles sent out layettes and sacrament cloths for the communion table in Africa. Brother John Ross reported on the African Relief stating that the mission house is completed and a very comfortable place it is.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of Brother Clifford Burgess, Brother Harry Robinson and Sister Cora Fowler. A total of \$7,286.62 is in this fund.

Donations were made to Africa Relief, Domestic Missionary, General Church Trustees, and General Church Indian Missionary Funds. From the selling of Cook Books \$1,700.00 was given to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund.

The projects for the next four months will be to continue to send layettes and sacrament cloths.

The next General Circle meeting will be held at the Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on July 14, 1979.

A vote of thanks was given to the Circles in the Florida Area for their hospitality.

A few of the Brothers that were present spoke to the Sisters at the end of the meeting telling the Sisters to keep on doing the work because it is a valuable service to the Church.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

'Twas An Old Fashioned Meeting With A Blessing For All

On February 26, 1979, the Michigan-Ontario Ladies Uplift Circle held their area meeting at the Windsor Branch. The meeting began in prayer. The Sisters from Windsor presented an inspirational program on the topic, "The Sheep of the Lord". Our Sisters delivered the message through song and verse on how we are the sheep, and the Lord is our Good Shepherd. Personality differences

between the stubborn goat and the humble submissive lamb were brought out, and a comparison was made as to how we can take on the vices of the goat or the attributes of the lamb in our service to God.

After the program, the meeting was left open for testimony and prayer, as the Lord would direct us. Prayer was offered for the sick among us and for those who were not able to attend because of their affliction. The Sisters then broke into a beautiful season of testimony, with the theme of how the Ladies Circle had been a great influence and blessing in their lives. Many Sisters testified of the precious memories they have had because of attending Circle meetings with their mothers when they were young; also how much the fellowship of the Sisters meant to each one when they were troubled in spirit or needed to share a joy or sorrow.

Sister Pierina DiFalco related an experience which encouraged all the Sisters to continue to pray for the protection and safety of our children. She said we should not take for granted the prayers we offer every morning for the Lord to bless our pathway each day. Sister DiFalco's daughter travels to and from school by bus. On one particular morning, the bus driver had accidentally cut off a man driving in a car in the next lane. The man became enraged and forced the bus to stop. He left his vehicle and came to the side of the bus where he began screaming at the driver to come outside. When the driver would not leave the bus, the man returned to his car and produced a gun which he then frantically waved at the driver and the busload of children. Then, for some reason, he stopped abruptly, went back to his car and drove away. It seems our prayers which we all too often take for granted are not forgotten or taken for granted by God.

Following this testimony, Sister Janet Steinrock exhorted all the Sisters not to faint in praying for their daughters who seem far from the fold of The Church. She thanked God for the unceasing prayers that were offered in her behalf. Were it not for her mother's prayers, Sister Janet related, she would not be among the Sisters of the Ladies Circle today.

Truly in all, the meeting was an "old fashioned spiritual bouquet". The program inspired us to be more submissive to that which our Lord would have us to do; the season of prayer and testimony showed us how important and necessary prayer is in our lives; and lastly, how wonderful it is to be a member of the Ladies Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Judy Coppa
Michigan-Ontario Ladies
Circle Area Editor,

Two Baptisms At Tampa, Florida

Word has been received that two baptisms took place at Tampa on Sunday, March 25th. They were Betty and Forrest Heller. Sister Betty was baptized by Brother Duane Lowe and confirmed by Brother M. Griffith. Brother Forrest was baptized and confirmed by Brother William Tucker.

Tampa is happy to have these first baptisms since their organization as a Branch and since they have moved into their new building.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

More Ordinations At Broward County Mission, Florida

Only eleven months have passed since our little mission started and what a marvelous way the Lord has in selecting his servants and to fill each and every office in our new mission.

Recently, the Lord gave a dream to Brother Joseph Catone, Sr. which revealed that Brother Paul DiNardo was to become a deacon. Sister Pauline Ritz from the Miami Mission had a dream which revealed that Sister Viola Catone was to become a deaconess.

These ordinations were held on February 4, 1979 at the Miami Mission's meeting place in Coral Gables. We enjoyed many visitors from the Lake Worth and Ft. Pierce Branches.

A wonderful spirit prevailed that day. Sister Viola Swanson washed Sister Viola Catone's feet and Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. anointed her as deaconess. Brother Dennis Moroco washed Brother Paul's feet and Brother Alvin Swanson anointed him as deacon.

Just after the completion of having their feet washed, Sister Rose Rogolina arose and spoke in tongues. The interpretation given was;

The Lord says; This gift God put upon these, so that they may be able to carry out the ways of the Church and be a blessing and light to others around them.

We can't praise God enough for his wonderful blessings as we endeavor to grow in this little mission.

Youngstown, Ohio

As children of the King, we are desirous to bring blessings to others as well as receive them ourselves. Early 1977 God opened the way for Brother Ralph Bernardino, an Evangelist from Youngstown, Ohio, to bring a blessing to a group of people confined to a nursing home. His intentions were to bring some joy and happiness into their lives and to let them know that God loves them.

After a few visits, Brother Ralph approached the Youngstown Quartet (Saundra Cardillo, Nick Manes, Teresa and Donald Pandone) to accompany him to the nursing home. We began visiting the home on April 10, 1977 with Brother Ralph and found the residents had a great need. This is a nursing home with many shut-ins seeking love and attention. There are many elderly people who are feeble and several who are disabled who know not the true blessings and love of God.

When we first started going to this home on the second Sunday afternoon of each month, the people were not very responsive. Our approach to this problem was prayerful that God would open a way for us to bring these people a blessing, for we felt a deep compassion for them. Once again God answered our prayers by allowing us to be a blessing to them and to feel at ease with them. It is apparent by their facial expressions that they feel the spirit of love in singing songs of praise and our

talking with them of the love of God. It makes us feel confident that God is pleased in our endeavors. Each time we leave the home, the residents ask us to hurry back. The nursing home personnel have also expressed their enjoyment in our visits and have participated with us on numerous occasions. In addition, we have had the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel to family members and personnel.

Due to the added responsibility of Brother Ralph as presiding elder, Brother Henry Cardillo was asked to assist us.

The Youngstown M.B.A. members have added their support to this endeavor by providing hymnals and by sponsoring a Christmas social. The Sisters baked cookies and the M.B.A. provided delicious fresh fruit. We sang many carols and hymns and God's blessings were felt by the members of the M.B.A., nursing home residents and also the personnel.

Our prayer is that we may continue to be a blessing to those confined to this facility and that we may be fruitful in proclaiming the Gospel to those who have the ability to comprehend.

The Youngstown Quartet

Baptism At Branch No. 1

Brother Anthony Scolaro became our newest convert. Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan was glowing and filled with joy as we counted our young Brother as part of the family of God!

Brother Anthony was baptized by his father, Brother Tony Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Concetto Alesandro.

On this special day, blessing was added to blessing, as Brother Tony Scolaro stated, "It is the prayer of every parent in The Church to have all his children baptized into the Gospel of Jesus Christ." On September 17, 1978, Brother Tony could stake that claim — all five of his children have now taken their stand for Christ.

We pray that our newest Brother will always claim the peace and happiness that comes with belonging to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fort Pierce Branch

The Saints of Fort Pierce Branch have been enjoying many of our visiting Brothers and Sisters from up North. Brother Joseph Bittinger and his wife have spent the winter in Ft. Pierce. Brother Nick Pietrangelo was with us for our District Conference and encouraged the Saints to be united in the love of God. On Wednesday, March 7th, we had a surprise visit from Brother Frank Vito and his wife from Detroit Branch No. 3. Brother Frank read from the 40th chapter of Isaiah, verses 12 to 15 and verses 28 to 31. He encouraged the Saints to try harder to bring forth new birth into our midst. He said the scriptures say to pray and it also says to weep. He related how his father fasted and prayed for him to obey the Gospel. His father was told to bow down on his face to the Lord. His subject was to wait on the Lord and to continue to pray for our children to come into the Church.

Sunday, March 25th, was a memorial occasion. We had visiting Brothers and Sisters from various places. Among those visiting were Sisters Andrews and Shazer from Herndon, Va., Sisters Bentz, Fleming, Thomas and Kay Jones from Vanderbilt, Pa., Sister Madeline Robinson from Clairton, the Jumper family from Aliquippa, Pa., and the Miller family from Ohio. This was also the last Sunday Brother Joe and Sister Edna Bittinger and Sister Eleanor Sproul and her husband were spending with us. The meeting was opened by Brother Charles Smith and he opened with the scripture that God saw that His creation was good. Brother Joe followed referring to the latter day Ark. A Sister spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was, "Woe unto those who procrastinate the day of their salvation. The day is nigh unto those who are seeking". The afternoon was spent in bearing testimony. We rejoiced in those things that God has done for His people. A good feeling of fellowship was felt and we partook of the Lord's supper.

On Monday the bus for the Ladies Circle came and we bid all our Brothers and Sisters farewell. Amen.

Sam Costarella

Ft. Pierce Branch Editor

Baptism At Sterling Heights

Sunday, March 4, Judy Champine, wife of Brother Gary, surrendered her life to Christ Jesus. The Saints have prayed and fasted many months for her conversion. Sister Judy felt the Spirit of God upon her before reaching the church and as soon as she entered the door, she told Brother Louis Vitto she wanted to be baptized. She wept throughout Sunday School and the morning service. Sister Judy's acceptance fulfilled God's promise to Brother Gary. Brother Gary cried unto the Lord before joining the Church as to what would happen to his wife if he was baptized. God's promise to him was, "Take care of your own life, I will take care of Judy."

Brother Eugene, Sister Donna and Sister Josephine Amormino visited with us today. We sang "Blessed Assurance" and the Spirit of God was very real.

Brother Paul Whitton opened in prayer. Then Sister Yolanda Spada, Brother Frank Salerno, Sister Donna Amormino, Brother Tony Leopoldo, Sister Pierina Di-Falco and Brother Louis Vitto, were anointed.

The Champine brothers sang "Consider the Lillies" and Brother John Buffa opened the service, reading from Luke 15:3-7. He related how Satan has dominion over all the earth and how Jesus rejoices when one soul comes to the Lord. He told of how we are liberated when we accept baptism. Jesus found another lost sheep today.

Brother Louis Vitto then stated there is no way possible that flesh and blood can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. It is only through redemption. We must be born again of the water and the spirit. We can only run from God for so long. When the shackles are broken, we can feel His tender touch. We then sang "He Touched Me" and "Sweet, Sweet Spirit."

Brother Eugene Amormino gave his testimony and told of the work being done at Cass Corridor and how he had witnessed healings there. Brother Tony Gerace and Brother Joe Milantoni are now being assisted by Brother Carl Frammolino.

Brother Louis Vitto said we must labor continuously for God to pour out His blessings. We closed with "Because He Lives" and were dismissed by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Sister Judy was baptized in the Detroit river at Belle Isle by Brother Louis Vitto. The hole was cut through the ice on the previous Sunday and Sister Bernice Hypolite of Cass Corridor, was baptized. Then on Sunday morning, an Indian girl, Sister Judy Appleton, also from the Corridor, was baptized in the same spot, our Sister Judy Champine, being the third candidate.

Back at the church, Brother Louis stated that through Sister Judy's acceptance of the Lord, she can be used by God in many ways.

Brother Jerry Beayola opened in prayer. Brother Louis then read Matthew 7:28. We all come to a cross-road in life, one leads to eternal life, the other to eternal damnation. There is no middle road. Sister Judy made her decision today for the Lord. She now possesses the spirit of love and understanding, the spirit of repentance.

All the Elders knelt around Sister Judy and Brother Carl led in prayer. Meanwhile, Sister Judy wept uncontrollably. She was then confirmed by Brother John Buffa. Returning to her seat, she embraced her sister and Brother Gary. This was another happy day in the life of Brother Gary. This is now a family controlled by God's love.

Sister Judy testified that she had always loved the Lord and she wanted Him to use her in any way He wanted. She said she had received so much love here, there were so many who cared for her and that she felt very close to Brother Larry, her brother-in-law, because he came many times to talk to her and to witness to her.

Brother Gary then thanked all the Brothers and Sisters for their prayers. He said this family of God, this love we have for one another, is what sets this Church apart. He also thanked God for keeping His promise to "take care of Judy."

We all knelt as Brother Mike LaSala said a special prayer for Sister Josephine D'Amico, who is ill.

We were dismissed by Brother Pete Scolaro and then adjourned to the basement for refreshments and continued fellowship.

Sister Hazel Zoltek
Branch Editor

A Beautiful Farewell

Sunday, March 4, 1979 was a day dedicated to Brother Chuck and Sister Sylvia Curry since they are leaving the San Fernando Valley Branch after 18 years to go and work among the seed of Joseph in Redlake, Arizona.

Many beautiful testimonies were shared on their behalf and several hymns were dedicated to them.

Brother Chuck requested the Elders lay hands on Him and Sister Sylvia that the Lord might be with them. The Elders also layed hands on the sick and the Spirit of God was felt by everyone. At the close of the service, Brother John Azzinaro presented them with a plaque which read: Brother Chuck and Sister Sylvia, May the

road rise with you and the wind be always at your back, and may the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand. God Bless you both, The Valley Branch.

The meeting was dismissed by everyone joining hands and singing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." A potluck dinner was prepared by all the Sisters and enjoyed by all.

We at the Valley Branch feel sad to lose such a wonderful Brother and Sister. We miss all of our members that have moved away. We feel confident that the Lord will not abandon us and will provide us with blessings and the opportunity to bring in new people. Please remember our Branch.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Sister Virginia Surprenant
San Fernando Valley Branch Editor

Metuchen, New Jersey Branch Sunday, December 17, 1978

A wonderful time was had by all attending the Metuchen Branch this day. There were a few friends and several Brothers and Sisters visiting from various Branches to witness the ordination of Brother Ken Lombardo as Teacher, and Brother Anthony Vadasz, Jr. as Deacon in Metuchen Branch.

Brother Matthew Rogolino, President of the Atlantic Coast District, was among the visitors and opened the morning service. While Brother Matt was speaking, Sister Stella Arcuri saw Brother Matt's face all aglow in a bright light.

Following Brother Matt's talk, the ordinations took place. Brother Walter Cihomsky, Presiding Teacher of the Metuchen Branch, was asked to wash Brother Ken's feet. Brother Walter felt a wonderful blessing in washing our Brother's feet. He stated that as he began to kneel before our Brother he felt the Spirit of God come upon him and began to cry. As he was praying to the Lord and washing Brother Ken's feet, his eyes were opened but he could not see Brother Ken nor did he remember the words he spoke because as he prayed a vision appeared. He saw Jesus Christ sitting at the head of the table and saw that He rose up from the chair and put a towel around His neck and with a basin of water knelt before the Apostles and began to wash their feet one by one. Brother Walter related this experience and God's blessing was felt by all.

When the Elders of the Church began the Laying-on-of-Hands to confirm our Brothers in their Offices, the Lord poured forth his blessing once more. As Brother Joseph Arcuri, Presiding Elder of the Metuchen Branch, began praying over Brother Anthony Vadasz, Jr., the Spirit of God came upon him and he spoke in the Gift of Tongues; a gift which it seems is given by God to our Brother, for he has spoken in the Gift of Tongues on several other occasions.

These experiences confirmed God's acceptance of these two young Brothers into their Offices. This truly was a wonderful meeting and will long be remembered by all of our Brothers and Sisters and friends present that day.

Sister Marie Cihomsky
Branch Editor

News From Detroit, Michigan

On March 25, 1979, Detroit's Branch No. 1 welcomed Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor Palmieri of the Aliquippa Branch into our morning meeting.

Brother Paul introduced the service by reading from the 9th Chapter of John. This passage relates to Christ's miraculous healing of a man blind from birth and the disbelief he encounters. The Jews question the young man's parents to confirm their son's account, but they, in fear of confessing Christ and being banned from the synagogue, merely answer, "He is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself."

Brother Paul compared this miraculous act to the miracle in our own lives. We, too, were blind and wandering in darkness when Christ came and gave us greater vision. We, too, have been changed so completely that those around us wonder what and who has affected us so.

Brother Paul related the difference his own baptism made in his life and how those that knew him before questioned his changed behavior. He, like the parents of the blind man, was reluctant to acknowledge the source of his new way of life. But one day, he gave his testimony to a fellow worker. He took a stand for the Lord.

Brother Paul brought out the importance of being involved in the Lord's work. We should tell those around us who we are, what we stand for, and what has caused this great change in our lives. He said that we should not be afraid to spread the good word. We should show the world what we have found that they might see the light of the Gospel, also.

Brother Jerry Benyola followed Brother Paul in stressing this great gift of spiritual sight that Christ has granted each of us. He would hope that we would cherish this miracle and share it with those around us for all the world to know.

Sister Eleanor then gave her testimony and praised God for His presence in her life.

We truly enjoyed the visit of our Brother and Sister Palmieri and pray that God will bless them always.

Sister Rosanne Scolaro
Assistant Branch Editor

Blessings At Glassport Branch

We are thankful unto God for the manifold blessings He provides for His children when we gather to glorify His blessed name. On March 4 the Glassport Branch was filled to capacity with the Saints from Greensburg for the entire day. We were also thankful to have in our midst some of the Saints visiting from the Niles, Ohio Branch.

The Sunday School lesson was edifying to all, giving us an anticipation of blessings to come. It must be said that Sunday School often stirs the spirit of understanding in all who participate, which causes us to realize the necessity of this organization and be thankful to God for its operation, no matter how many, or few are in attendance. After greeting one another, before our morning service, we began to join our voices together in hymns of praise. Petitioning the throne of God we asked His blessings upon our service. By what the world considers foolishness, the ministers of the most high God preached unto us, from the creation of God, found in the first

chapter of Genesis unto the salvation in Jesus Christ revealed in these the last days. The tears of joy throughout the congregation bore witness of the presence of God's Spirit in our midst. Yes, by preaching, our souls were filled and our hearts were made to swell with the joy of the Gospel.

With the afternoon meeting opened, the priesthood continued to seek the edification of the spirit by exhorting one and all to seek the spiritual things of life through Jesus Christ. The testimonies of thanksgiving and praise to God, the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ resounded from one vessel to another. Before kneeling to receive the blessing upon the body and the blood of Jesus Christ we were made to reflect upon the communion He had with His disciples in the upper room.

Certainly this day of blessings will be engraved into the remembrance of our hearts for many seasons to come. The table of the Lord was spread before us with food divine for all to feast upon. We of Glassport are thankful to God for the desire within all present to spend the day in fellowship with us. Let us apply the spiritual strength and blessings we receive in our gatherings to our daily lives; thus we walk before the world as a light to those who have not known the light of life: Jesus Christ.

Again, how beautiful was the evening of March 8 when the Saints gathered at the Glassport Branch for a spiritual meeting. We thank God that He has instilled within the hearts of His children the desire to seek out all spiritual blessings. With a gathering of membership and priesthood from throughout the District we refreshed our hearts with a season of spiritual hymns. After the opening prayer we anticipated the administration of the spirit to come forth from the ministry. The theme of the entire meeting was one verse of scripture, St. John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." The Brothers brought forth a season of preaching and exhortation which caused our hearts to swell with joy. Yet it was not the spoken word, but it was the administration of the spirit from those who have received that authority that brought joy to our soul. Following our preaching service the meeting was opened for testimony. One by one our Brothers and Sisters stood upon their feet to declare the goodness of God in their lives and praise the name of Jesus Christ. Though the various testimonies may sound repetitious according to the words we hear, yet there is a spirit of truthful sincerity that softens the heart and brings forth a sympathizing tear. Truly we felt in our midst the Spirit of God prevailing upon one and all. As each voice, both priesthood and membership spoke, it was as the voices of angels to the honor and glory of Almighty God. There was no one portion of the meeting that stood above the rest, but the combined worship of all present was a spiritual elevation to all souls present. Surely the table of the Lord was spread before us and we were invited to come and dine.

We encourage all to have spiritual revival meetings, trusting in the Spirit of God as your guide. We thank God for the modern means of travel that enabled our Brothers and Sisters from afar to attend. May God's goodness and grace continue to prevail in our lives. Let us be found humble and obedient in the service of the King.

Love in Christ,
The Glassport Branch

G.M.B.A. CAMPOUT REGISTRATION FORM

The Annual G.M.B.A. Campout at Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia from Saturday, June 9, 1979 at 1:00 P.M. to Saturday, June 16, 1979 at 1:00 P.M.

Please complete and detach this form and return with the required payment by May 25, 1979 to: Nick Francione 16020 Carlisle, Detroit, MI 48205. Phone: 313-839-2693.

Registrations will be on a First Come—First Served Basis

LIST REQUIRED INFORMATION AND LODGING PREFERENCE

NAME	Sex	Age	Dorm	Motel	Campers, tents trailers, etc	Other
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

LIST NUMBER OF PERSONS EATING EACH MEAL

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Breakfast	None							
Lunch	None							
Supper								None

Prices below include lodging, meals, insurance* and sales tax

Ages	7 days	6 days	5 days	4 days	3 days	2 days
10 years and up	\$70.00	\$65.00	\$59.00	\$53.00	\$47.00	\$41.00
2 years to 9 years	\$35.00	\$32.50	\$29.50	\$26.50	\$23.50	\$20.50
Under 2 years	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

* over 65 years of age not covered.

Make checks payable to "GMBA CAMPOUT '79."

MEAL POLICY

If you eat one (1) meal in the camp dining hall on any day, you must pay for the entire days meals. But, please

list all the exact meals you will be eating though you pay for the entire days meals. The only two exceptions are on both Saturdays when 1 & 2 meals are eaten.

Ages	Food Cost Per Week	Camp Site Per Week	Insurance*
10 years and up	\$47.00	\$9.00	Included
2 years to 9 years	\$27.00	\$——	"
Under 2 years	Free	Free	"

TENTS, TRAILERS, AND CAMPER SITES

1. There are 12 sites available.
Each has its own water and electrical outlet.
2. There is a central bath house for those campers.
3. There is a washer and dryer available in the same building as the central bath house.
4. These 12 sites are located several hundred feet from the main auditorium.
5. There is a well lit path leading to the main area. It is advisable to bring a jacket to camp as the evenings may be cool.

SONG BOOK — \$2.00 each.

Song Books must be pre-ordered and prepaid. Please list the number of books wanted. Include song book costs with registration fee.

Number of Song Books Wanted

Total Cost for Song Books

Please list ordained office (s)

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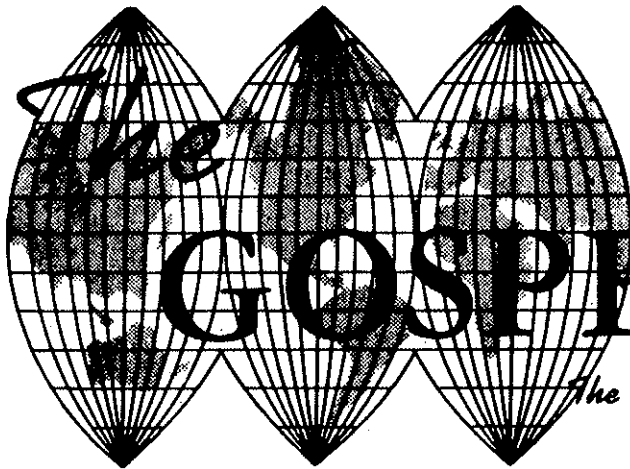
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NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
(USPS 223-480)

June, 1979

Volume 35, No. 6

Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

CHANGE IN EDITOR

By Paul Palmieri

Nine years ago, Brother Thomas Ross and I were elected in the October Conference of 1970 to be the Assistant Editor and Editor of *The Gospel News*, respectively. This was a new experience for me, since I had never done anything of this nature. In the April Conference of 1979, Brother Ken Staley of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania was elected as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Gospel News*, with Brother Thomas Ross being re-elected as the Assistant Editor.

I am very appreciative of the help I have received from all those who helped in getting the material ready, printed and distributed. I would like for the readers to know who these individuals are, even though they are listed in the masthead.

Assistant Editor — Thomas Ross
Managing Editor — Joseph Ross
Assistant Managing Editor — Richard Scaglione
Editorialist — George A. Neill
Consultants — John Ross, Carl Frammolin, Dominic Moraco, John Manes and Joseph Bittinger
Office Manager — Sara Vancik and Lucetta Scaglione
Typists — Betty Eiler, Sharon Staley, Ruth Rogalla, Theodora Seeley (deceased), Louise Donkin, Janet Gibson and Ruth E. Palmieri (my wife)
Circulation Manager — Hertha Jones, Jane Whittaker and Chris Collins,

as well as all the Auxiliary Editors and District Editors. I especially want to thank Mr. Sandor Chomos, the printer, who gave me invaluable assistance. Without the help of those I have listed (I hope I haven't omitted anyone), the job would have been very burdensome.

The paper evolved over the nine years: we had to find a new printer, Sister Sara Vancik relocated to Arizona and the price of the subscription for the paper went from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per year. People started inquiring about The Church from different countries, so we started a series called "People Are Inquiring". We tried to make the paper reflect The Church and its attitude towards taking the Gospel to the entire world.

Brother Staley is now the sixth Editor of *The Gospel News*. Brother W. H. Cadman started the paper in 1945 and served as the Editor until his death in 1963. Brother George Neill served as Editor until 1966 and was succeeded by Brother Donald Curry who served until 1969. Brother Carl Frammolin held the office for two years, and I took over in 1971. I trust that the paper has maintained the high Church standard originally intended by Brother Cadman.

I am sure Brother Ken Staley will receive the aid given by all the District and Branch Editors, regular writers and special feature writers who have been the necessary link in the gathering, reporting and dispensing of news. Brother Staley was baptized into The Church in 1967 at Glassport, Pennsylvania. He lived in California for two years and presently attends the Aliquippa Branch. Brother Ken is also the Pennsylvania Area MBA President.

My prayers are that God will bless our new Editor and also all those who are engaged in volunteer work for The Church, regardless of the position. I am sure that the work that is done is noticed by God and will be rewarded by Him.

The Editor-in-Chief's address is as follows:

Mr. Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Extension
Aliquippa, PA 15001

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof,
the world and they that dwell therein;

For He has founded it upon the seas, and established
it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who
shall stand in His holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who
hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn de-
ceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and
righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Psalms 24:1-5

CHURCH CALENDAR

The following is a list of 1979 events of General Church and regional interest. An asterisk (*) denotes that the meeting will be held in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

JUNE 1979

- 9-16 GMBA Campout at Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia

JULY 1979

- 5, 6, 7 Quorum of Twelve Apostles Meeting in New Jersey
14* General Ladies Uplift Circle at Greensburg, PA
28, 29 California District Conference

AUGUST 1979

- 3, 4, 5 Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout
7-12 California Area MBA Campout
11 Foreign Missions Board Committee Meeting at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania
18, 19* Pennsylvania District Conference at Roscoe, Pennsylvania
18, 19 Atlantic Coast District Conference at Freehold, New Jersey
18, 19 Florida District Conference at Fort Pierce, Florida
18, 19 Ohio District Conference at Warren and Youngstown, Ohio (respectively)
22, 23,
24 & 26 Michigan-Ontario District Conference at Branch No. 2
25, 26 Arizona District Conference at Laweside, Arizona

SEPTEMBER 1979

- 22 General Church Mission Board Meeting at Lorain, Ohio

OCTOBER 1979

- 6 General Ladies Uplift Circle at Imperial, PA
17* Quorum of Twelve Apostles Meeting
18* Quorum of Seventy Evangelists Meeting at 9:00 AM
18* General Church Conference begins at 7:00 PM
19*, 20*,
21* General Church Conference

NOVEMBER 1979

- 10*, 11* GMBA Conference

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to express my thanks to all of you who prayed in behalf of my son Charles (Brother Tony Corrado's grandson).

We thank God for His kind mercy in sparing his life. He is doing very well, and we know that with the help of God, Charles will be completely well soon.

Sister Amy Cook,
Youngstown, Ohio

THE TESTIMONY OF EUGENIO MORA

The following is a translation of Brother Eugenio Mora's religious history — his youth, his great interest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and ultimately, his desire to become a minister and be used of God.

His account begins: My name is Eugenio Mora Garcia. I was born on November 15, 1925 in a village called El Cahulote Santa Ana, in the state of Michoacan, Republic of Mexico. As far back as I can recall, I clearly remember at age 6 that my parents knew the Gospel.

One day in my childhood, I was sitting at the top of a fruit tree in my village, which was full of guayabo trees. It was about 1 o'clock in the afternoon when I heard, for the first time, a song of praise and glory: "Master, the tempest is raging..." I heard the song very well. I felt a joy which I am unable to explain. The song was sung by two brothers who belonged to the Baptist Church. One was named Daniel and the other, Metodio. They were young men. From that day in August, 1931, the Gospel became a marvel to me.

My parents never missed Sunday meetings or other services, which were usually held outside. Thus, I had the opportunity to learn many songs and hear many sermons. Sometimes I would fall asleep, and for good reason, because the minister had to speak in a very low voice. (It was the Catholic Church which persecuted us greatly.) I would be allowed to sleep for the sake of keeping me quiet. A few years later, we had more liberty. So I grew and absorbed the preaching of the word of God. One day, we no longer visited the mission, for reasons which would not be right to mention. The preacher had become corrupt and soon left his little flock never to return.

In 1943, other people, who just called themselves Christians, arrived. They had no other name because they had just separated themselves from a group which was called "The Light of the World." This Christian group later took the name of "The Church of the Good Shepherd." They still exist. My people accepted this group, and after one year, I, also, accepted and consecrated my life to the Lord. They soon elevated me to the office of "Exhortator" (one who exhorts or warns and helps to keep people in line), then to "Deacon".

In 1945, we had a great trial with the Catholics, who burned our church building and killed some of our brothers. We were forced to move to the village of Cuautla, in the state of Morelos, where in June of 1946, the Lord inspired me with the first song I wrote, the title of which is "Today Jesus Christ is Calling the Sinner."

In 1947, we moved to Mexico City, where I met my wife, Angelita, whom I had the good fortune to have with me in my travels as a missionary to the states of Vera Cruz, Tlaxcala, Morelos and Tamaulipas. In 1953, I was sent to Tijuana, arriving the 30th of August. Here, I was placed in charge of a group of people. One day, a man arrived who said he had come from Los Angeles. His name was Joseph. He asked if I was the pastor and I said that I was. He then said to me, to my great shock, "You're not a minister; you're not even a dog!" He asked who it was that had given me the authority to preach. I told him that God had given me the authority. He asked when had I received this authority; had I felt I had this authority, or had an angel given it to me, or perhaps some

prophet? I told him that our general pastor had. The man then answered, "Who gave him the authority?" I said that his ministers in "The Light of the World Church" had given him the authority. He answered, "Don't you know that they all left that church fighting?" I said that I knew that. He continued, "And you still believe that they have authority? Answer me, where did the people of 'The Light of the World Church' go? How did they leave?" He commenced to name the people one by one as to how each departed, all of them fighting as they left. He went on to explain that, "The reason I am telling you that they have not the authority of Jesus Christ, is that Christians don't fight." I then asked him what I was to do now. "Wait," he said, "and the authority will come from God. Men who have the authority from God will come and then you will be anointed." I asked, "And I will see them?" "Of course," he said, "they are flesh and bone and walk with two feet." I asked, "When will this be?" He answered, "This I do not know. It is a question of waiting."

+ Seven years passed. In the meantime, I ceased from preaching and I was no longer inspired with songs. In the year 1961, we met Brother and Sister Perdue, who invited us to the Church to hear the word of the Lord. We attended the services from some time and I felt very good. The first sermon we heard was from the *Book of Mormon*. I thought that by going this one time to the Church would automatically make one a member, but when sacrament time came and we were passed up, we felt very bad. (The brother had explained beforehand the reason for not administering the sacrament to non-members.) An invitation was extended to those who desired to be baptized and I was asked if I desired this. I explained that I had been baptized before. They clarified that my former baptism was not recognized by the Church and that baptisms of other Churches were not recognized, for the simple reason that the Church had no way of knowing what kind of life the ministers of these other Churches had lived; therefore, the Church could not be responsible for what other Churches had done. We knew only the way of the Lord and baptism was done under the authority of the Lord. Other Churches did not have the authority.

This is when I thought of the words of that man I had met in Tijuana years before — that those other Churches did not have the authority. This is when I made my decision to be baptized and after several days, I was baptized at Rosarito Beach. Before I was submerged, our brother ministers said, "Eugenio, having received authority from Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen." From that day henceforth, we were very happy learning the wonderful teachings of the Gospel Restored. I spent considerable time learning the doctrine of the Church, learning from the sermons which were preached, and the order of our services before I was called into the ministry.

From that time, I felt the calling of God into the ministry, but it was at this particular point that I encountered a man by the name of Luis Urias, who began filling me with seeds of discord and distrust in the Perdues. This influence swayed me and soon I became filled with envy and bitterness. God called me many times, reproving me in different ways. I was humbled to the dust of the earth, and this forced me to stop working on the most profitable day of the week for me — Sunday, which really had been a deterrent from serving God. However, I desired to return to serving God one day and began to attend services every Sunday. Within a few months, I

began to feel the joy of former times. I was given a new song, a restoration hymn, called "Do You Want to Meet Jesus?"

After the witness of the Lord's Spirit within me a few years and His witness in my family a little later, I was given another song: "The Sheep That Our Lord Pastures Is The Church of Jesus Christ." At this time, I was given a vision while driving my car near Rosarita Beach in Tijuana. I was compelled to stop because I could not drive. The following is the vision which was given to me:

"I began to feel a heat that was overwhelming and my sight began to cloud. I began to see a wind like a destructive hurricane coming from the north to the south. I saw many people running, their faces filled with panic. I felt that it would pass and approached one of the people who were running, asking what had happened and why they were running. He answered, "Destruction is coming! Flee! Escape! There is a refuge!" I felt a heaviness and sadness in my heart for my family in Tijuana, so I ran desperately to find my family. At the same time, I was curious to know to which place the people were running. There on the beach, I saw a small pier where a ship was docked. The people were running into it. The ship moved with the wind. On one side of the ship were written the words: The CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST."

I came to myself then and found that I had been sweating profusely in the heat of my car. I returned to my driving in deep thought. I had no doubts whatsoever that this, indeed, is the CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. When I approached the front of the beach, all I saw was a peaceful beach. At this point, the Lord gave me the song entitled, "The Ark of God."

All of these events stand as a witness to my calling. I had desired to work for the Lord, but I did not have the authority. I remembered the words of that man that I would have to receive the authority from a person who truly had the authority. With all the trials I had been through, I never once had doubts that this was the Church for which I had been searching. Now I was awaiting the day when God would send a man to me who would communicate to me those things which the Lord would have me do.

One day while I was pondering upon the sweetness of the word of God and the *Book of Mormon* which spoke of my people, the Spirit of God came upon me (it was about 6 a.m.) — I was awake and I heard a voice which said, "GO! TELL MY BROTHERS THAT THEY ARE LISTENING TO THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS." I saw nothing. I heard the voice only. I did as I was commanded. One day, they said to me, "Brother Eugenio, would you like to be a minister of our Church? We will recommend you." I felt my heart bursting with joy and I accepted with all my heart — that which I had so long waited for had become a reality. Not long after, the Brothers came and asked me many questions, and as the elder son was filled with envy at the return of the prodigal son, I had opposition from a Brother. I never did know the reasons, neither do I want to know; but finally, they voted in my favor and I was anointed.

What a glorious moment when they laid hands upon me. I was suddenly filled and moved upon by some turbulent force which lifted me up high and shook me so forcefully that my body could not control it. When I came

to myself, I was wet with perspiration but in my heart was a joy so great that I could hardly contain it. Finally, I had received that which I had long desired and had for so long waited! I received that authority about which I had been foretold. I had waited for that mantle of the Lord to fall upon me and fill me with His Spirit. Now I had attained it. The envious one watched my every word and my actions, but the grace of Jesus Christ was with me.

Afterwards, I wrote letters to my family, telling them what the Lord had given me.

As for my missionary journeys after my anointing, my first missionary trip was made in the company of Brothers Joseph Lovalvo and Edward Perdue. After I returned in June of 1975, I was accompanied by Brothers Pilar Cordova Barajas and Juan Rivas. Later, I accompanied Brother Mark Randy to Guatemala. Never had I dreamed of the importance of this trip.

I received some of my greatest blessings in seeing my mother baptized as well as my brother, Odilon. My brother is a good preacher as well as my elder brother, who after being so stubborn and rebellious, accepted the doctrine of the Church.

On other missionary trips, I was accompanied by Brothers Joe Ciarrola and Sam Randy to the state of Michoacan, where God gave us much success. One of the last successful trips was taken to Oaxaca, where my wife suffered much fear. We had to sleep in a place where there was considerable trash and all kinds of things. There were many big rats here. We suffered much hardship, but we felt the blessing of the Lord. At this place, we stayed for two days and met many brethren. We had asked the Lord to permit us to go to Oaxaca and He granted us our desire.

One day when we were in El Cahulote, state of Michoacan, we met with some people and began to talk to them about the Gospel. Most of them were Catholics. I talked against the graven images, the idolatry, the false gods. We sang some hymns and when our meeting was over and we were dismissing, a young man about 18 years of age approached me, and taking off his sombrero, asked, "Have you a little picture of the Virgin of Guadalupe to give me? I wish to have it as a protection." I perceived that the young man had understood nothing.

With reference to the hymns and how they are given to me, it is something that I really cannot explain. Many times, when I try to compose songs, nothing happens. Most of the time, my songs come to me in a moment — as though I knew them or had heard them before; others, I listen to in dreams and when I awake, I write them. The only precaution I take is to make certain that the melody is not similar to worldly song and that it not be written as poetry or rhetoric, in order for my people to understand. The last song I listened to in a dream, I was accompanied by Brother Joe Ciarrola of Modesto, California and the title of this song is, "Oh, What A Pleasure It Will Be To Live With the Lord." Over 200 hymns have been given to me of the Lord.

Eugene Mora Garcia

Translated from Spanish by
Sister Santina M. Mercuri, Anaheim

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother Mora was recommended to be ordained an Evangelist at the April 1979 General Church Conference. For this reason, we thought it would be fitting to print his testimony at this time.

THANKFUL TO BE ALIVE

We wish to thank God with all of our hearts for all His goodness and mercy towards us. We are certain that we would not be alive today if He had not interceded and spared our lives.

While on our way home from Window Rock, Arizona to Tucson, Arizona, Brother Ron Brutz, his wife Loretta and their two small children, Ruth and Rachel, along with myself, Sister Grace Brutz, were involved in a very bad car accident. The driver of the other car apparently fell asleep and collided with our car head-on. The whole left side of the car and the motor were smashed in. In fact, the car was totally demolished. Ron was driving, and I was in the back seat behind him. With the force of the impact, it was truly miraculous that Ron did not sustain any serious chest injury, but received only some cuts and bruises. I was immediately unconscious, and since a piece of food had lodged in my throat, I began to choke to death. Even in his confused state of mind, having temporarily lost his memory, my son, Ron, was able through the help of God to revive me and help the others. I have a number of broken ribs, have been injured internally and have been bruised all over quite badly. Loretta was bruised and cut badly on her knees and legs. Ruth was not hurt. Rachel, eight months old, sustained two broken legs and a broken right arm and is in a partial arm cast and a half body cast. We know that God will help her little bones to mend and be whole once again. Thank God we are all feeling better now!

When my daughter, Sister Diane Surdock, was notified of the accident, they were holding a meeting in her home at the time in Window Rock. Sister Sarah Watson felt so bad that she just cried to the Lord and said, "Lord, didn't You have one of Your angels watching over them?" She said that the Lord showed her that an angel was watching over our car, and He said to her, "I was watching over them. That's why their lives have been spared."

The accident happened not far from Lakeside, Arizona where some of our Brothers and Sisters reside. We can't tell you how glad we were to see Brothers Ike Smith, Skip Smith and Herb Hemmings walk into the emergency room where we were taken. They anointed us and asked that God might come to our help. After the accident, the Saints there took us into their homes and treated us wonderfully.

How can we ever thank our Heavenly Father enough? We know our lives have been spared for a purpose. From all reports, those who saw the car were amazed that anyone could survive such an accident. Our prayers are that God will continue to be with us and to use us in whatever way He sees fit.

We wish to thank all of our dear Brothers and Sisters in Tucson and everywhere throughout The Church for their wonderful love towards us. There is no greater love than that of the love of God. We also want to thank everyone for their prayers in our behalf and for the phone calls and the beautiful cards which we received. May God repay each and every one of you in His own special way. We can truly say that we are **THANKFUL TO BE ALIVE.**

Sister Grace Brutz,
Brother Ron and Loretta Brutz

**THE GOSPEL
NEWS**

EDITOR IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eller
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

**ATLANTIC COAST
EDITORS**
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N8R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint —**A TRIBUTE TO FATHERS****"A Father's Love"**

Last month, in keeping with the annual observance of Mother's Day, this column was dedicated to the honor of mothers.

This month, also in keeping with the annual observance of Father's Day, we properly and happily dedicate this column to fathers.

We are deeply indebted to our Heavenly Father for wisely and properly commanding us to "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (*Exodus 20:12*)

Thus, in honoring our fathers this month, as we honored our mothers last month, we also honor our Heavenly Father.

Serious Responsibility

Too often, fathers are taken for granted by their children, whether teenager or adult. However, who would dare underestimate the serious responsibility of fathers in their activity as breadwinner and provider. Many fathers work hard and many hours to support their families. May we note too, that other fathers' occupations involve numerous physical risks and daily hazards. Nevertheless, good fathers tenaciously pursue their daily routine in order to provide a steady income to supply the everyday needs of their loved ones.

Good Example

Good fathers do not limit their responsibilities in properly and adequately supporting their families. He is a wise and good father who endeavors to set a good example for his children. He is dedicated to the ideal that paternal love is best exemplified by goodly and wholesome behavior, by good deeds and actions and by everyday right-living.

Too, they will not neglect to "train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (*Proverbs 22:6*)

Neither will he forget the admonition of the great Apostle Paul, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (*Ephesians 6:4*)

Additionally, he will teach his children to pray and to read the word of God. The Apostle Paul highly commended this in writing to Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (*II Timothy 3:14,15*)

Awesome Task

The annual observance of Father's Day serves as a stimulating reminder of the love, devotion and appreciation that we owe our fathers who are living. It is also a time to hold in reverent memory those fathers who have gone to their rewards.

We can never fully repay or sufficiently honor fathers. The time, labor and love that they have expended in their awesome task of rearing their children are immeasurably beyond our capacity to properly value.

It behooves us to manifest our love and appreciation, of which they are so worthy and deserving.

May we also strive to follow their good examples.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Woman of Samaria

Dear Girls and Boys,

Jesus left Judea and departed to Galilee by the way of Samaria. He was tired and sat down to rest on Jacob's well. It was noon time. A woman came with her water pot to draw water. She was a Samaritan. Now there was hatred between Jews and Samaritans. Jesus said to the woman, "Give me to drink." She, surprised, asked, "How is it that thou being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

Jesus answered her, "If thou knewest the gift of God and who it is that saith to thee, 'Give me to drink,' thou wouldest have asked of him and he would have given thee living water." She was puzzled. She said, "Sir thou hast nothing to draw with and the well is deep; from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well?" She couldn't understand Jesus' words. Jesus answered, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him as a well of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman desired to know more. She said, "Sir give me this water that I thirst not or need to come here to draw." Jesus said, "Go call thy husband and come hither." She said, "I have no husband." Jesus knew she didn't and told her she spoke well, for she had had five husbands and the one she now had was not her husband. No one had ever spoken to her like this. She thought surely he must be a prophet. She said, "I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ; when he is come, he will tell us all things." Jesus said, "I that speak unto thee am he."

After this, Jesus' disciples came to meet Him. The woman hurried to her friends, leaving her water pot behind, to tell them of her experience. She said, "Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?" Many of the Samaritans believed in Him, this Jesus.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Cooperation eases strain!

Children have more need of models than of critics.

District Conferences . . .

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

February 9 & 10, 1979

The business session of the conference convened on time, with a good representation of Brothers from throughout the District. Many things were accomplished, problems were solved and all things were done with a good spirit throughout the day. The Saturday evening program was then presented by the Anaheim Branch. The idea of the program was to have the Brothers and Sisters ask questions about what The Church is doing about missionary work. Some interesting questions came forth, along with a few musical selections.

The Sunday service convened promptly at 10:00 A.M. with congregational singing, along with a few inspirational solos by Brothers Leonard and V. J. Lovalvo. Brother Leonard introduced the service with St. John, Chapter 4 and Isaiah, Chapter 55, drawing our attention to the willingness of God to fill our cups with living water if we will extend ourselves with minimal exertion.

The meeting was then turned over to the congregation to bear testimony to God's goodness. A glorious feeling was felt by all. During the meeting, Brother Dan Picciuto arose to his feet under the Spirit of God, asking to be reinstated into The Church. A wonderful feeling of humility was felt as the Ministry knelt in prayer. Brother Dan was then reinstated, with Brother Mark Randy officiating.

Brother Dan requested that he be administered the ordinance of Sacrament and also that his feet be washed. A mutual feeling was felt by various Brothers to the request.

Brother V. J. Lovalvo related a vision he had while preparing to administer Sacrament. "I saw the table with Jesus and His disciples gathered around. He arose and gave them to eat. Then He turned to us and gave us to eat and then turned to the congregation and gave them to eat."

Brother Charles Curry closed the conference with prayer.

Brother Ken Jones
District Editor,

ARIZONA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

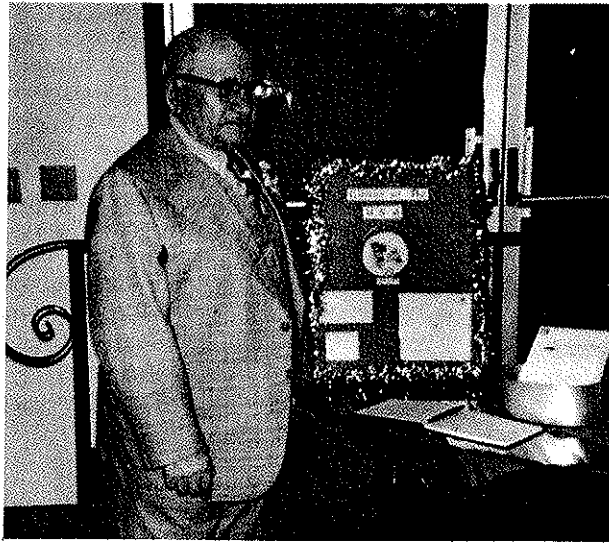
The Arizona District Conference convened at Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday, February 17, 1979, with Elders and Teachers present. The morning session began with singing "Wide as the Ocean". Our visitors, Brothers Frank Ciotti and Clarence Kirkpatrick, were welcomed and given a voice in the meeting. Brother Frank was also here to discuss the uniform accounting system of The Church. Prayer was offered by Brother Anthony Brutz.

A season of prayer was offered for Brother Jake Christman, Brother George Benyola's father and Sister Mary Feher, as well as for the conference. Brother Peter Capone spoke on the need of special prayer for the many sick and afflicted in The Church. He exhorted those present to be dedicated to their calling so as to be the light of the world as Jesus intended us to be.

(Continued on page 7)

A TRIBUTE TO A 90 YEAR OLD DAD

By Sister Josephine Dominico



My dad, Brother Vincent "Jim" Aquilino, was 90 years old on December 3, 1978. We may take many things for granted, such as getting older; but to reach 90 years of age and have reasonably good health and still carry a good spirit of testimony to God's goodness is a privilege and a gift from God. We appreciate God's goodness to us to have brought my dad this far.

We honored him with a birthday party on December 2, and he was so happy to see everyone, young and old. He visited and talked with everyone present. He was pleased and blessed to see everyone. He didn't even take a morsel of food or a drop of coffee or punch. He blessed everyone for coming, and every birthday card that came, he would say, "God bless them". We all want to say thank you and God bless you all for "giving roses to the living" by sending your good wishes by birthday cards, calls and visits.

My dad was baptized in Lorain, Ohio in September of 1927 and was very active in The Church as a Deacon and a Teacher. He was a peacemaker to the best of his ability with God's help. He worked very hard when the Lorain church building was erected. His home was always open to many travelling Brothers and Sisters. During the Depression, he opened his home to a needy family of 6 people for 2 years.

God continued to sustain him for many years until the present. He made his home in Detroit, Michigan when he married Sister Catherine Leto in July of 1958 and lived in Detroit since that time. He has one daughter in Detroit (Sister Antoinette Ciaravino) with whom he has made his home since Sister Catherine passed away. He resides with me when he visits San Diego.

He is a good standing member of Branch No. 4 in Detroit, Michigan, always sustaining the faith of the Gospel. He also is at home in the San Diego Branch, having made many visits because his youngest daughter, Sister Violent Thomas, made her home here.

May I close this article by quoting from a birthday card that one of our old neighbors sent to my dad from Lorain, Ohio:

TO A LOVELY PERSON

Where did you learn that lovely way
Of always being nice —
Of doing extra thoughtful things
And never thinking twice?

Well, don't know where you learned it,
But, one thing's surely true
You're a very special person
To send birthday wishes to.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has made my dad what he is to the present time. For this, we are grateful. Brother Jim Aquilino has been an inspiration to all of our family and leaves us a heritage of good experiences and good memories.

Thank you all again for being so nice to our dad!

DISTRICT CONFERENCES . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Brother Watson reported on a wonderful California District Conference the previous weekend. We have experienced a closer relationship with the California District of late, for which we thank God.

Brother George Benyola of Dallas expressed himself concerning the conference and how happy he was to be here. We enjoyed having Brother George here with us and appreciate the effort he made to attend. He spoke of his father's illness and how he returned to The Church. He told of two experiences: one of the ship sailing to the promised land for eternal happiness, and eventually his father boarded the ship with the help of two Elders; and the other when his mother and father were walking hand-in-hand — when they parted, she convinced him to the right way where the beautiful light was shining. He requested prayers for the Dallas Mission and extended an open invitation to anyone who cares to visit the mission. He stated that the Saints of Dallas send their love.

Brother Watson made some closing remarks about us not using all our tools and that we can learn by asking someone who knows about them. There is no retirement in this Church. We are in this together, and we must pull together. Prayer was offered by Brother Patsy Marinetti.

The Sunday service was opened with prayer by Brother George Johnson. Brother Frank Ciotti of Anaheim spoke to us from *II Chronicles*, Chapter 2, stating that God does not change. He is reliable and gives us direction. He urged us to pray and seek the Kingdom of God.

We then heard from Brothers Peter Capone, Ike Smith and Larry Watson. Brother Robert Watson made some concluding remarks, and the service was closed with prayer by Brother Claude Kayson.

A special thanks was given by the conference for the four years of service given by Brothers Robert Watson, Arizona District Conference, and his Counselors, Brothers Richard Christman and Peter Capone. The new officers for the coming year are as follows: Richard Christman, President, and Brothers Patsy Marinetti and Isaac Smith, Counselors.

I WAS AN ATHEIST FOR OVER 70 YEARS

Through some very frustrating and disappointing experiences from the time I was an orphan until over 70 years of age, I was an unbeliever and scoffer of "church people". I'm sure I was a disappointment to my older brother and sister upon finding me after being lost to each other for over 43 years, and discovering my feelings of contempt for all so-called "religious people", considering them hypocrites. I was surprised and disappointed to find that my brother and sister were religious and I was not and I resented the fact that their beliefs were so different from mine. After striving vigorously for about 10 years to convert me to the gospel, they gave up thinking that I would never see the light. My brother and sister passed away believing that I would die an unbeliever — a lost soul.

I thought I was a happy man doing my own thing and that I would die and this body would return to the earth and that would be the end. At this time I was living with a niece and her family who never forced religion upon me regardless of the unkind and derogatory remarks I made about her beliefs. I didn't realize that at times I really was a very lonely man and after nearly losing my mind and going through a great deal of suffering and wrestling with my soul, which left me with feelings of deep regrets, I began having feelings of doubt and wonderment. One evening after questioning my niece, she asked 'Uncle, wouldn't you like to think that you could see Aunt Dolly again?' Whereupon my heart was touched with some strange hope and I said "yes" and two big tears rolled down my face. I didn't understand my own feelings but that was when the seed of hope was planted in my heart and said "Oh, I wish I could believe like you." Sometime later while discussing the beauties of nature my niece asked me to step outside, "look up", she said, "what do you think keeps the moon and stars in their places—what keeps them from crashing into each other or into the earth?" "Oh", I said, "some power I guess". She immediately exclaimed, "that's God, uncle, that's God." Some few months later this niece of mine asked me if I would read a book. Now, knowing that I loved to read, I'm sure she had an ulterior motive, she asked me to read "Evidences Of Christianity" by Macmillan and I promised her that I would read it with an open mind.

After just a few days of reading this wonderful book that my niece bought for twenty cents at a used book sale, it began to open my eyes and I called her and said, "I think I'm beginning to see the light". "Oh praise God" she said, "just keep on reading", and I'm sure she kept on praying.

One week later I rode my bicycle to her home and she said later as soon as I entered she knew something had happened to me for I looked different. I strode across the room, turned and said "You'll never believe this" and she exclaimed, "Oh, yes I will, what is it?" "Last night I prayed". "I knew it", she said, "Oh, what did you say?" "Well—I said, "Lord, if you're there, my niece says you are, then I want to know it". Something came over me and the tears streamed down my cheeks and I know that He touched me at that time. My niece said, "Oh, I'm so thankful, uncle you're going to have a more wonderful experience yet" and God honored her promise

for a short time later I had a beautiful dream in which I saw my Saviour. He had on a white robe without seams or pockets — He was so tall that I couldn't see His face. He took me by the hand like I was a little child and led me from village to village and house to house, preaching the gospel. My dream faded out and on waking up I was wishing that it could have continued forever. I began to read the Bible and go to church with my niece. How wonderful were those words — I had never realized. After reading about repentance and baptism, I was baptized in the fall in the Huron river in Michigan and was welcomed into fellowship with my brother and sisters in the church as set up by Christ. That was seven years ago now I must say that no one can really be happy until they find the Saviour and obey the commandments of the Lord. This is the only way to find true happiness.

Zifford Avery McCain
3502 Walnut Court
Lorain, Ohio 44053

THE WALK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share something with you that came to my desk one day when I was at work. I am sure that those of you who work in an office know that many things are passed around an office which are not very nice to read. So this day, when I was very busy, I went through my basket and came across this paper with the title, "The Walk." At first, I was hesitant to read it, thinking it might be something I shouldn't read.

As I started to read this poem, such a peace and good feeling came over me. I was so surprised that someone had taken the time to put a copy of this in everyone's basket.

Many had felt that same spirit. I do not know who the author of this poem is, but I would like to thank whoever wrote it, because it has brought a blessing to me and to everyone I have given it to. So, I would like to share this poem with you, that maybe you may feel that same spirit.

THE WALK

One night, a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. In each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonged to him and one to the Lord. When the last scene had flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that for many miles along the path, there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noticed that this happened during the lowest and saddest times of his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the Lord. "Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk all the way with me, but I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand it. When I needed You the most, You deserted me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never leave you. During the times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Love in Christ,
Sister Joy Krasnasky

THE CLEAN CUP AND PLATTER

By Julius Kovacs

"Then spake Jesus to the multitudes, and to his disciples saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat; All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works; for they say and do not,

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men. They make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.

And love the uppermost rooms at feast, and the chief seats in the synagogues.

And greetings in the markets and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters; for one is your Master, even Christ.

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye made him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." *Matthew 23:1-15*

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the others undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Yea so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous.

And say, if we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore ye be witness unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers." *Matthew 23:23-31.*

After this scriptural reading, we might say that the denouement and the climax has been written in the Book of Matthew to this message. Each of us, however, look with great concern upon the repeated words of Jesus Christ, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" What caused the Son of God to be so strong in emphasis against these people?

The best way to approach the answer is by the accretion of information, the explanations of the words, "Scribe" and Pharisee". This involves a retracing into historical developments of these religious Paracletes of the Torah, Neviim and Kesuvim, the Hebraic aspects of the Old Testament. The word "paraklet", Greek in definition for "defender" is self-explanatory. We are going to introduce the word "Sanhedrin" or "Kategor", the former a Hebrew word and the latter the koiné Greek word for "Accuser". This simplistic definition is for the body of the various sects of priesthood that formed a judging and accusing body, becoming a Judiciary after a fashion.

We shall retrace deeper into time. There were two parties, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, each with a view of what constituted a national state. Since the views differed, the struggle between them came to a head in the realm of religion and dogma. To give narrower definitions, the Sadducees accepted only the Law and rejected all oral traditions. They denied the resurrection and the immortality of the soul. They were a small group, and their inheritance of the position as priests of Zadok, ergo "Saducees", gradually became the most influential. Both divisions, Sadducees and Pharisees, emanated from the revolt of the Maccabees, the Sadducees siding with the Maccabeans. We note that a group resembling the Pharisees had existed as far back as the Babylonian captivity. The Semitic meaning to "Pharisee" is "the separatist". The name first appeared as such during the reign of John Hyrcanus. They also received the title as the Chasidim, "loyal to God", and Hasidic Jewery exists as strongly as ever to this day. Their presence was everywhere in Palestine and they wore a distinguishing garb for easy recognition. Consider the words of Jesus in this regard: "But all their works they do for to be seen of men. They make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments." According to Josephus, they numbered at least 6,000 at the peak of their power. It is because of the influence they made upon the Lord Jesus and the Apostles, even to the decision for the pronouncement of death upon Our Savior, that we should understand them more fully.

(To be continued next issue)

I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but still, I can do something.

—Edward Everett Hale

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

Modesto, California Branch News

Sunday, March 4, 1979 was a full and memorable day for those in the Modesto Branch. We took part in feet washing and witnessed an ordination. Also, we were very happy to have Brother Jim Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary, with us from the Lindsay Branch.

Matthew Picciuto, just recently baptized, was ordained a Deacon. We all felt good in this and know that God will be with him in his service.

The following Sunday was also a very good day for us, and especially for Anthony Cardinale. During the testimony meeting, Brother Anthony stood up and gave his testimony, concluding it with his request for baptism. After the meeting, we went down to the river shore where Brother Joseph Ciarolla baptized him.

Please remember us in your prayers, as we remember you.

Modesto Branch Editor,
Sister Pam Cole

Detroit Branch No. 1 Welcomes Visitors

On April 8, 1979, we had the opportunity to welcome the President of our Church, Brother Dominic Thomas, along with Sister Dolores and Becky, to our Sunday morning service.

To begin the service, Brother Jerry Benyola opened in prayer. Brother Dominic followed by reading from *Ephesians*, 4:11. The Church is organized in the same way that Christ set it up. We must have order to accomplish the work before us. In order to do this, each vessel has to be clean, and the carnal nature has to be surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

We, as a Church, must remain close to the Lord, that we may be able to have His abiding peace in our lives. When we are doing the work of God and living according to His will, we are at peace. When we are led by the Spirit of God and are out of the carnal state, we can have that peace. Each of us has something to give. We should be walking in the spirit and let others experience this peace and love that we have. But, if we do not keep walking and living in the Spirit of God and do not stay in His will, we will no longer present a witness to the world.

We all look for shortcuts, but there is only either a right or a wrong way. There is no middle road. Yes, we must live a Christ-like life, and to do this, we must follow God's Spirit in every aspect of life.

Is the life that we are living good enough to say to others, "Follow me, and in doing so, you will follow Christ?" It is the standard that Jesus set that we must follow. We must be at peace with one another — to live with one another in love as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for "blessed are the peacemakers". This peace usually begins with prayer. The result of effectual prayer is a peaceful, loving and joyous atmosphere, anointed with the Holy Spirit. We, as a Church, must keep this peace by fasting and prayer.

There has to be an outreach in The Church resulting from the Spirit of God that is different than in the past.

We must tell the world what we have. We must not be selfish about it; rather, we should share it with others. God restored the Gospel of Jesus Christ on this earth, and He has called us into it to be His representatives and the servants to help those seeking after righteousness.

We, as a Church, must cleanse and purify our lives and thereby The Church. It starts with each one of us as individual members, examining ourselves and purifying ourselves that The Church may be purified, *that the Lord might use it.*

Let us grow in strength and cherish this peace that we have and share it with others, that they too might enjoy Christ's blessings in this, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

Sister Diane Everett,
Branch Editor

Baptism And Ordination At Vanderbilt

On November 5, 1978, the Saints at Vanderbilt were blessed with visitors from the Monongahela Branch. We had a further blessing in the baptism of a new Sister, Hope M. Franks, who had asked for her baptism earlier in the week.

She was baptized by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. and was confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by our visiting Brother, James Campbell.

AS we extended the hand of fellowship to our new Sister, we all felt a portion of God's love and spirit. May God continue to bless our new Sister.

On April 8, 1979, God's blessings flowed upon the Saints and friends of the Vanderbilt Branch. Visiting with us from the Glassport Branch were Brother Walter and Sister Margaret Donkin, Brother Keith Donkin and Sister Mary Anne Donkin. Sister Mary Anne sang the hymn "In The Garden" during the service.

As the meeting continued, Brother Dwayne Eutsey was ordained into the office of Deacon. His feet were washed by Brother John Fleming, and he was ordained by Brother Lawrence King.

God's blessing was felt throughout the ordination. This is a fulfillment of a dream had by Sister Birdie Furnier. There were many beautiful testimonies, and the Spirit of God was felt throughout the meeting.

Sister Rose Czapp,
Branch Editor

Fredonia And Greensburg Hold Joint Meeting

On Sunday, April 1, 1979, the Greensburg Branch met with Fredonia Mission. We were privileged to have some Brothers and Sisters from the Aliquippa Branch with us also. After a period of singing, the meeting was opened by Brother Paul Gehly. He read from *Matthew*, Chapter 14, beginning with Verse 22. Brother Paul brought forth the great love Christ had for Peter and all of His disciples, stressing the great faith they had and how we, today, must have great faith and trust in Christ. We must always be ready to do what He would have each of us do. As Christ and Peter walked on the waters, so must we be willing to do as Christ commands.

Brother Lirio Fallavollitti followed, stating that the Restored Gospel is one of the greatest miracles for man-

kind. Brother Paul Palmieri also spoke on miracles. He stressed that man is spared of many things after obeying the Gospel, and this is truly a miracle and a witness of God's power. Brother Arthur Gehly closed the meeting in prayer.

After lunch, we gathered again and enjoyed hymn singing and testimonies of inspiration. During the afternoon service, Brother Paul and Sister Carolyn Gehly's daughter, Kathryn Graff, asked for her baptism. While at the river, their daughter-in-law, Timothy Gehly's wife, Lisa, requested baptism. The young converts were baptized by Brother Paul Gehly. Brother Russell Cadman confirmed his granddaughter Kathryn, and Lisa was confirmed by Brother Arthur Gehly. Greensburg now has two more young Sisters in their branch. It was truly a day of rejoicing.

Fredonia Mission Editor,
Sister Ethel Cadman

Deaconess Ordained At San Fernando Valley Branch

Sister Betty Azzinaro was ordained a Deaconess at the San Fernando Valley Branch on March 25, 1979. The morning meeting began by singing "Speak My Lord." Brother Edmond Buccellatto spoke concerning the responsibilities of a Deaconess, reading from the book of *Mark*. He spoke of the laws and ceremonial laws before Christ and how Christ brought forth faith, belief and service to fellow men. We continued by singing "Give of Your Best to the Master."

Brother Frank Verardo followed, stating that a gracious woman retaineth honor. Brother Charles Curry told a little about Sister Betty and how much she has worked for The Church. Sister Kay Daniels sang a song entitled, "This Is My Task." We were all touched by this beautiful hymn.

Sister Betty was then called forward, and we all sang "Take My Life and Let It Be" as Sister Pearl Nester washed Sister Betty's feet. We then sang "Make Me A Blessing". Brother John Azzinaro then ordained his wife, Sister Betty. We all felt a beautiful spirit and love for our wonderful Sister. We thank God for giving her to us and know He will be with her always.

(Note: Five weeks prior to Sister Betty's ordination, I had a dream. I dreamed that I was in the congregation, and Sister Betty was asked to come forward for ordination as a Deaconess. She had a cast on her arm — I must add that Sister Betty has had a cast on her arm for the last two months. — I thought to myself, how will she set the table and do her duties? A voice spoke to me in my dream saying, "She will be able to do more with one hand than with two." I awoke and was so blessed. I had been praying for our branch and direction, and I thank God for this dream . . . Sister Virginia Surprenant).

Sister Sylvia Curry also had an experience while she was in Redlake, Arizona. She said that as she was sleeping, she was awakened by a voice that said, "Sister Betty Azzinaro must be made a Deaconess." Sister Sylvia is a Deaconess and is leaving our branch to be among the Indian people. We shall miss her dearly. May God bless you all.

Sister Virginia Surprenant,
Editor, San Fernando Valley Branch

CHILD BLESSED

Five-year-old Gary Champine, the youngest child of Brother Gary and Sister Judy Champine of the Sterling Heights Branch, was blessed by Brother Louis Vitto on Sunday, April 30, 1979.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Mark Joseph to Joseph and Joann Cotellesse of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan;

Aaron Peter to Peter and Candace Genaro,

Rachel Leah to Ron and Loretta Brutz,

Jessica Alberta to John and Chris Mancini,

Katherine Marie to Larry and Vanessa Watson, all of Redlake, Arizona;

Jason Matthew to Jon Martin and Sharon Anne Betcher of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Laylah Lee to Joseph and Diane Salmon of Youngstown, Ohio;

Abraham Raymond to Maximino and Elvia,

Jared Thomas to Bob and Lynn Womack,

Todd Michael to Mike and Debbie Jackson, all of San Diego, California;

Paul Anthony to Richard and Lorraine Thomas,

Kristina Lynn to Steven and Loretta Chambers,

Andrew David to Larry and Cathy Perkins, all of Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan;

Amy Denise to Daniel and Karen Denise Smith of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan;

Robert Jr. to Robert and Sue Amormino of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan.

Eric Thomas to Armand Vincent and Marie Hotte of Windsor, Ontario;

Christine Nicole to Danny and Karen Stefani of Edison, New Jersey.

— WEDDINGS —

GIOVANNONE - O'GRADY

Mr. Edward Giovannone and Miss Catherine O'Grady were united in marriage on January 27, 1979.

The ceremony took place in the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ and was officiated by Brother Frank Giovannone, the groom's father.

TOSTADO - GONZALEZ

Mr. Arturo Sanchez Tostado and Sister Rocio Guerrero Gonzalez were united in matrimony on February 24,

1979 in the San Diego, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Liberto officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sisters Adeline Ciccatti and Bertha Gonzalez.

The couple will reside in San Diego, California.

BARTUCCIO - ZORN

Brother Ross and Sister Phyllis Bartuccio of Cape Coral, Florida announce the marriage of their son Dennis to Rose Marie Zorn in Cleveland, Ohio on January 27, 1979.

May the Lord continue to bless the newlyweds with love and happiness in their life together.

AUSILIO - FURITANO

Mr. David J. Ausilio and Sister Rose Mary Furitano exchanged wedding vows on March 31, 1979 at Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Daniel Parravano officiated at the ceremony, and he was assisted by Brother Peter H. Capone. Musical selections were presented by Sister Olivia Parravano, organist and Sister Diane Hawkins, soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

CAROL ANN McCracken

Sister Carol Ann McCracken passed away on January 30, 1979. She was a member of the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Carol was born on January 27, 1952 and was baptized on December 31, 1972. She is survived by her mother, Sister Ella McCracken, one brother, three nieces and one nephew.

Brothers Mitchell Edwards and Jerry Giovannone conducted the funeral services.

JOSEPH BATALUCCO

Brother Joseph Batalucco, a member of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan, passed on to his heavenly reward on January 6, 1979. He was born on June 16, 1897 and baptized on June 16, 1935. During his years in The Church, Brother Joe was a faithful servant of Christ, serving in the ordained offices of Deacon and Teacher. He missed very few services and was a diligent student of God's Word.

Brother Batalucco is survived by his wife, one brother, two sons, three daughters and 16 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Querino Bologna and Alex Gentile.

FREDERICO STRACCIA

Brother Federico Straccia passed away from this life on January 22, 1979. A member of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan, he was born on August 10, 1885.

During his years in the Gospel, Brother Fred served as a Deacon, Teacher and Elder. He always placed The Church first in his life and will be greatly missed by all in Branch No. 2.

He is survived by his wife, two brothers, one sister and 18 nephews and nieces.

Brothers Querino Bologna and Joseph Milantoni conducted the funeral services.

FRANK NOWALKI

Brother Frank Nowalki passed on to his reward on March 8, 1979. He was born on October 1, 1889 and was baptized on October 19, 1936. Left to mourn his loss are his wife, seven children, 17 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers George Ondrasik, Daniel Casasanta and John Manes.

ANNA VALENTI

Sister Anna Valenti passed on to her heavenly rest on February 28, 1979. She was born in Sicily, Italy on February 6, 1897. Baptised into The Church of Jesus Christ, New Brunswick Branch on February 20, 1926, she was presently a member of the Bronx Branch.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino and Brother Matthew Rogolino officiated at the funeral services which were held in the Hopelawn Branch. The eulogy was given by Brother Gerard Valenti.

She leaves to mourn her loss three daughters, Sisters Belle Rose, Lydia Link and Rose Laessig, and three sons, Brothers Don, Gerard and Anthony, 16 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

She was a faithful and devoted servant of God, attending church services regularly. Her presence will be missed by all who knew her. May God bless and comfort her family.

ANGELINA CASTRONOVO

Sister Angelina Castronovo passed away from this life on February 24, 1979. A member of the Rochester, New York Branch, she was born on December 31, 1888 and baptized on November 15, 1931.

Brother Ansel D'Amico officiated at the funeral services which were held at the Suburban Funeral Home.

Sister Angelina is survived by one daughter-in-law, six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
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TESTIMONY OF OUR NEW APOSTLE

My father left England in 1929 for Windsor, Canada, in search of employment. My mother and I followed him one year later. During the early part of the 1930's we came in contact with a few families who were destined to play a great part in our lives. They were the Burgess family, the Ford family, and the Henderson family.

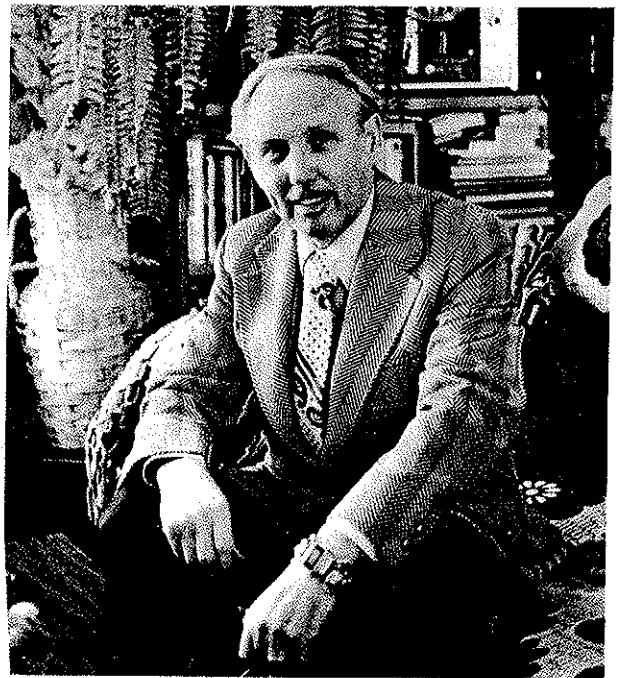
Brother Frank Ford, who at that time was an immigration officer, became very curious at a car that frequently came through immigration carrying men of different nationalities. He discovered that they represented The Church Of Jesus Christ. These men were traveling to the Indian Reservation at Muncey, Ontario. They invited him to go with them on one of their trips.

One Sunday, he made arrangements to go with them along with Brother Clifford Burgess. When they returned home, they were so excited at what they had seen and heard that they couldn't wait to tell my mother and father.

This first trip to Muncey, Canada was the first introduction of the Church to my family. My parents, along with the other families mentioned, wanting to know more about the Church and the Brothers and Sisters from Detroit, started to hold meetings at the various homes in Windsor, Canada.

At this time, I was in my early teens and wasn't very much interested in religion. I attended church at the insistence of my parents. It wasn't, however, until a friend of mine, Doug Henderson, came back from a trip to Northern Canada and told me of a testimony he had heard that I started to become interested in the Church. I then started to pay more attention to the meetings, and in the month of February, 1938, while Brother Joe Lovalvo was preaching on the two thousand young stripling warriors, I decided to make my covenant with the Lord. Brother Douglas Henderson and I then went down to the Detroit River where they broke the ice to baptize us.

Shortly after my baptism, I was called to be a deacon at 17, then a teacher. Before my baptism I was very active in sports, and I always wanted to play in the game. After my baptism, I carried this same enthusiasm for the work of the Lord. I didn't want to sit on the sidelines of



God's work, but rather I wanted to become actively involved.

On September 12, 1942, I married Sarah Randazzo in Detroit, Michigan, and we were given three wonderful children, namely, Elaine, Judy and Larry.

In 1943, while being only 21 years of age, I was called to be an Elder. At this time, the Windsor Branch was in charge of the Grand River Indian work, and I started to make trips with the elder Brothers.

In 1945 I was called to be an Evangelist, and upon returning home from the conference, I told my wife concerning this calling. She was at the time, taking care of her mother who was dying of cancer. As I was telling my wife about this calling, she was very concerned about my added responsibility. My mother-in-law, though in great pain, heard us talking from another room and got out of bed and called to my wife. She asked her what we were talking about, and my wife told her about my calling as an Evangelist. She then said to my wife, "Don't disturb your husband because the Lord has a great work for him." She told her of a vision she had had wherein she saw

twelve pillars and she saw me standing in front of one of those pillars preaching by the power of God. We kept this experience to ourselves, not wishing to say anything until, if it was from God, it would be fulfilled.

After approximately thirty-three years later, the Lord gave me the following dream. "I observed that the Apostles were meeting in a room for the purpose of selecting the next Apostle. Brother Dominic Thomas told them to write their selection on a piece of paper and then deposit their selection into a container. He then requested Brother Russell Cadman to reach into the container and select the name of the next Apostle. Brother Russell reached in and pulled out the name of Robert A. Watson. He then appeared to take the paper and burn it as a sacrifice that what they had done was sealed in heaven.

In January of 1979, approximately three months after I received this experience, the Apostles met in Phoenix, Arizona. During their meetings the power of God was manifested, and they called me before their quorum. They told me concerning the experiences they had relating to calling me into the office of an Apostle. I was very much overcome by the spirit, especially when I was informed of how God's power moved upon Brother Russell Cadman to make the motion for my calling. This confirmed my dream. I feel very humble in this calling, and I sincerely request the support and prayers of all my Brothers and Sisters.

Robert A. Watson

THE CLEAN CUP AND PLATTER

By Julius Kovacs

(Continued from June, 1979 Issue)

Note that the Pharisees were closely knit, loyal to the society and to each other, but separate from others. They pledged themselves to obey all facets of the traditions to the very miniscule and, by far greater emphasis, they were sticklers for ceremonial purity, "outwardly clean." They would not touch the carcass of a dead animal, or those contacting such things. They avoided, nay, formed a barrier completely against people defiled, according to them, through sickness. They made life difficult for themselves and exceedingly bitter for others. They despised those that were lower in estate, and maintained a haughty and arrogant demeanor since they believed that they alone interpreted God and His word.

They believed in predestination, the immortality of the soul and had a fundamental belief in spirit life. These beliefs brought conflict between them and the Sadducees. They believed in the final reward for good works and that the souls of the wicked were banished to the nether world, while the souls of the virtuous rose again and even migrated into other bodies. They believed in the Messianic hope, but not that Christ was the Messiah. They bitterly opposed Jesus and his teachings, hated him as well as they did the Romans and Herod.

We know that some Pharisees, such as Nicodemus, and others were good men. Jesus condemned their ostentatiousness, their hypocrisy, their salvation by works, their impenitence and lovelessness for the poor, the af-

flicted. Gamaliel and Paul were Pharisees that had their minds opened when the time of testing came upon them. Yet, despite some goodness, the words of Jesus typify the gross failing of this group.

The "Scribes" mentioned by Jesus were learned men, having a systematic study of the law. They devoted themselves to the preservation, transcription and the exposition of the law. They were in entity lawyers. They served as judges in Jewish courts and were a strong body in the Sanhedrin. The onus they bear was that they opposed Jesus and played an important part in His death. Their allegiance centered upon the Pharisees.

At the time of disputation between the Sadducees and the Pharisees, the time of civil government transformation from Theocracy, this causing the split, a third and a new sect arose, the Essenes. The upheavals at the time of Alexander Jannaeus (Yannai in Hebrew) brought disillusionment to many people. In consequence, people of a religious mystical nature began to believe that the usual forms of government were in vain and incompatible with religion. Any compromise, they felt, would be detrimental to the life of the spirit. Righteous life, as such, was defined as a spiritual society of brotherhood. This was a reaction against politics and cultural influences. To consolidate some of the aspects of belief, the Sadducees attempted to blend very little government into religion; The Pharisees wanted to stew them all into the same pot, but the Essenes renounced the temporal aspects and sought the spiritual completely. Morality and religious sanctity of the Pharisees as a source for social discipline was superseded by the Essenes, seekers of personal salvation. As they progressed toward the time contemporary with the coming of Christ, they became introspective, aspiring toward individualistic and mystical ways of life.

The Essene revived the ideal of the ancient Nazarenes, lived in separate brotherhoods or communes, rarely to be seen in the villages or cities. They later formed a colony around 100 B.C. at En Gedi, west of the Dead Sea. Their novitiates went through a year of preparation, being first admitted to the ceremony of ablution, then two years later, to the brotherhood meal of the Essenes. Each strove by physical labors to earn his keep; there were no slaves or servants. They mostly were abstinent from sex and marriage. Those women they took into marriage were put through a test period as well, the attempt being to perpetuate the sect in purity. They brought no animal offerings to the Temple, read scriptures during divine service. They adhered completely to the keeping of the Sabbath, and upheld ritual cleanliness.

This group, gaining in recognition from the areas around Khirbet Qumran, in the greatly publicized discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls in this century, believed that the soul was freed at death, soaring away from the earth. The righteous entered Paradise; the sinful were abandoned into caves in the after life. They were looked upon as soothsayers and diviners. One of them, Onias, was called upon by the Hyrcanusites to invoke a curse upon the Aristobulus faction, but he responded with a prayer that God should not side with either in the struggle for royal power. Ultimately, Essenism gradually dissolved into a chaotic mixture of Jewish-Hellenist beliefs that gave rise to Christianity.

The conflict then remained with the Sadducees and

the Pharisees, whether to build a "fence around the Torah", whether to accept post biblical Oral Law, the "Torah shebaal pe" or the Legends of the Elders, "Paradosis ton presbyteron", in Greek. The Sadducees only recognized the written law of Moses, repudiating later traditions orally handed down. They could not uphold the strict laws governing food, observance of the Sabbath, ritual sanitary regulations isolating the Jews from the rest of the world. They ridiculed the excessive zeal of the Pharisees, their ritual cleanness. Upon seeing the Pharisees immersing the Temple vessels in water, they quipped, "Soon the Pharisees will dip the sun in the water too." They dissented from the Pharisees on the timing of the festival of the harvest, "Shavuoth". The Sadducees believed that this should be celebrated always on the day following the seventh Sabbath (that is Sunday) after the Passover Sunday. The Pharisees insisted that Shavuoth began after seven weeks from the second day of Passover. Sukkoth, the festival in autumn, established as a ceremony was observed by pouring a libation upon the altar; it also included the custom of carrying willow branches on the seventh day of the festival. Sukkoth was upheld by the Pharisees, but denied and ridiculed by the Sadducees. The Sadducees believed in "An eye for an eye" and "A tooth for a tooth"; the Pharisees believed in imposing fines for most offenses.

The belief that there was no life after death, according to the Sadducees, met its contradiction in passages of the Book of Daniel, such as: "—And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake—some to everlasting life, and some to reproaches and everlasting abhorrence." Daniel 12:2. The Hasideans, to whom the author of the Book of Daniel belonged, and the Pharisees adopted this dogma. The Sadducees argued, "There is not a word about resurrection in the Torah." The Sadducees felt the Lord of the Universe was concerned with the fate of a people, but not the destiny of an individual. Rationalists in religion, realists in politics, the Sadducees believed in the separation of the two.

The Pharisees believed the old laws could be bent or modified. Oral tradition and juridical interpretations arose from their oral laws. They amassed more oral laws as time went on, expanding the fence around the Torah. They imposed numerous laws, rites and customs, pure food and ritual laws, and the populace sided with them over the Sadducees.

Josephus, in *Jewish Antiquities*, XIII-1:3, and in *Jewish War* II-8-9, stated, "Though the Pharisees recognize that everything is decreed by fate, they don't deny that man has freedom of action. They maintain that, according to predestination by God, the will of fate merges with the will of mind, and that is why an individual follows either the path of vice or of virtue." "The Pharisees recognize that all that takes place depends upon fate and God, and they teach that, though doing good or evil is chiefly the choice of man, yet fate also participates in every deed."

The Talmudic Aggada indicated, "The Sadducees said that the Pharisees submitted to deprivations in this world, and that they would not be rewarded in the hereafter, either."

Upon noting the isolation and the monastic nature of the Essenes, and seeing that the Sadducees believed only in the Torah and not beyond, the Pharisees assumed the center stage, the influence over the Jews, morally,

politically, in jurisprudence, in religion and every walk of life. They epitomized by verbalization all the duties of the citizenry, but held themselves aloof. They cared not for the poor, the afflicted, the unfortunates, the welfare of the individuals, promising eternal life but negating all aspects in their mode of living. Is it any wonder that Jesus spake to the greatest obstacle to the New Law, "Behold old things have passed away; all things are become new." The enemy was manifest from the day of His birth up to the mock trial before Annas and Caiaphas; the Chasidim, the vestige of the Pharisees, deny Christ as the Messiah to this very day.

Mankind must learn that until every knee shall bend and every head shall bow, proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Our Savior, all attempts at bringing peace to Israel have failed, despite treaties backed by arms proliferations. The Judgment must begin at the House of Israel. What then does it imply to us of the Restored Gospel when we face accountability. Jesus Christ, more glorious, more thoughtful of the needs of the world in the coming tribulation, is the only answer. Did He not say, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Certain cups and platters have been glazed in vivid colors with a lead based glaze. They are beautiful on the outside but full of poison on the inside. The lead reacts with the natural acids in foods and very often the results can be fatal. Are our cups and platters glazed with the love of Jesus Christ; are they fired with the Holy Spirit? It is so easy to put on a veneer, a sheen on the outside, but inwardly, known to the Eternal Father, the semblance of purity, cleanliness on the outside can belie the evil and the bitterness that is present within our breasts. If we cannot be platinum and gold fringed cups and platters, let us be plain ordinary mugs and plates, not fancy but sweetened with the spiritual waters that Jesus spoke of to the Samaritan woman at the well.

Brother Julius Kovacs
R.D. 1, Pion Rd.
Fairfield, Vermont 05455
Phone 802-524-6115

Note: Our new address. We request that it be put into The Gospel News with our fervent hope that brothers and sisters would find this an oasis to partake temporally and spiritually.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

On May 11, 1979, in honor of Mother's Day, the MBA of Branch No. 3 in Detroit, Michigan held a "pot luck" dinner. The men, being the hosts for the evening, did a splendid job. They prepared food, desserts and coffee and served about 100 people.

What better way to show their love and appreciation! This gave the mothers a chance to relax and socialize. It was quite a change to see the men in aprons, not only serving but also doing all the dishes!

Thank you, men, for a job well done.

Sister Dorothy Pastorelli

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

QUESTION: What was desired so much by the Twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ, and for which they prayed so earnestly?

ANSWER . . . "And they did pray for that which they most desired; and they desired that the HOLY GHOST should be given unto them." (3rd Nephi 19:9)

Immediately after they had prayed, they went down into the water's edge, and, beginning with Nephi, all the twelve were baptized. The scripture does not say who baptized Nephi; it only says that, "he went down into the water and was baptized." Then he baptized the rest of the disciples. Immediately, as they came up out of the water, the Holy Ghost descended upon them and, "they were filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire." The scripture also adds, "And behold, they were encircled about as if it were by fire; and it came down from heaven, and the multitude did witness it, and did bear record; and angels did come down out of heaven and did minister unto them. And it came to pass that while the angels were administering unto the disciples, behold, Jesus came and stood in the midst and ministered unto them." (3rd Nephi 19:10-14)

Let us analyze the above scripture a little. First, they prayed that the Holy Ghost should be given unto them. The reason is very obvious. Nothing can be accomplished without the power of the Holy Ghost. The Disciples knew this because they had tasted of its glory and power albeit intermittently. Now they wanted the Holy Ghost as an ABIDING gift, to be with them always. Christ had promised the Apostles in Jerusalem that, "... I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He (the Holy Ghost) may ABIDE with you forever. Even the Spirit of Truth..." (John 14:16,17)

In all ages of time, holy men of God spoke and worked by the power of the Holy Spirit, but, only when Christ came to earth did He promise that He would give them the Holy Ghost (Same as Holy Spirit) to ABIDE with them always. For that especial reason the Apostles and the few in the upper room waited prayerfully for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It is likened unto Christ being with them in person. Remember, He said, "... He shall give you ANOTHER Comforter..." To those then who have received the Holy Ghost by the imposition of hands, the thought is tremendous. Just think for a moment, it is like having Jesus walking with us always. It is no wonder that the Disciples desired this gift above all others. Jesus then gave them the power to give the Holy Ghost, by laying their hands upon those who were baptized. Now, endowed with the power of the Holy Ghost, they went throughout the land preaching and baptizing and establishing churches everywhere; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, they performed marvelous deeds of healing to the amazement of those who witnessed such.

Secondly . . . Why did the disciples and the many that were already baptized have to be re-baptized?

ANSWER . . . Beginning with Alma, at the waters of Mormon, (Mosiah 18th Ch.) and there-after, those who

believed in the coming of Jesus Christ were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, living a righteous life as though Christ had already come, although they kept the law of Moses until He came.

Now that He had descended in the midst of the Nephites, he told them that the Law was fulfilled in Him. Therefore, they had to be baptized again. But this time under the dispensation of Jesus Christ. Their baptism before Christ came became null and void, as did the rest of the law. Also, the promise of the Holy Ghost as an ABIDING gift was never made under the Law; only after Christ came.

Remember that Paul, the Apostle also re-baptized some up in the coast of Ephesus because they had not received the Holy Ghost. They had been baptized by John the Baptist, but only by water, not by the Holy Ghost. As soon as Christ made His appearance in His ministry, everything changed; the law became null and void; everything was new; it was the dispensation of Christ.

Think carefully, dear reader; if the Disciples and the Apostles of old were able to perform mighty deeds by the power of the Holy Ghost, and to have angels descend upon them from time to time, isn't it a real possibility that those who have received the Holy Ghost today, in the days of the Restoration of the Gospel, should also enjoy the same power and the same glory, and the same angelic visitations as those above? Why not? He is the same God, the same Christ, the same giver. All it takes is simple faith, to believe that all things are possible with God; and we too, could witness the same things as the Disciples of Christ did.

Faith can only grow if it is exercised. It is like a pianist, who, if he wants to retain his dexterity, he must practice daily, hour after hour, or else he will lose his technique. So it is with faith; it must be exercised, put into effect daily, or else one will lose sight of the glory and blessings that are waiting in store for whoever believes.

By the power of the Holy Ghost we have communion with God; He will walk by our side; He will answer prayer; angels will visit us from time to time; the three Nephites will also appear periodically to us. And all this will come to pass because we will believe that the Comforter is the ABIDING gift of God, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.

Remember, we never walk alone.

I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalms 18:1-3

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eller
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Penna. 15001

**DISTRICT
EDITORS**
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N. J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N6R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By

Guest Editorialist, Mark Randy

"BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN"

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." God's people are often in great tribulations for a time, and no deliverance comes till God Himself effects it. Noted deliverances make observers to wonder, and Saints to rejoice. But the more His people are truly exercised in spiritual mourning, the more remarkable shall be their fruits of holiness. The less we depend upon our own schemes or lean to our own understanding, and the more we look up to God for help and direction, the better shall we prosper.

The most prudent projects and plans, the most anxious cares and the most toilsome labors are all to no purpose without God's blessings. But happy in their rest and happier in their dutiful children are they whom He blesses. How excellent and profitable is real and experimental godliness, issuing in a holy practice. It draws the blessing of God upon our labors, our families, on our people and on our posterity. In every age, the seed of the serpent has raged in enmity against God's people.

God Will Deliver

There is no going honorably to heaven, but through great tribulation. But let the wicked lay their plots and execute them as they will. God will deliver all who accept Jesus Christ, and unbelievers shall plunge themselves at last into the most dreadful disappointment and ruin. The curse of God shall blast them, with all their schemes and attempts.

The Apostles knew this, so they went from church to church "confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22) The people of God should be always exercised in the most solid, extensive and lasting joys. Everything in God's purpose, promise, nature and works is a delightful ground thereof. And the more He is to us or He does for us, and the more we are related to Him or trust in Him, the more we ought to abound in His praise.

Pleasant Prayers and Praises

In view of these facts, let us be armed and ready, for our cause is just, and Jesus Christ is our general. The more that Jesus was reproached and persecuted, the more He gave Himself to prayer on account of it. Let us likewise observe that sin turns men into a kind of evil. But the Saints, in the midst of their trouble, turn to the most pleasant prayers and praises, knowing that when our distress is greatest, God's power and grace shall be more magnified in our deliverance.

Though it is hard to exercise courageous faith under sore troubles, yet remembrance of God's kindness to ourselves or others in former times is very encouraging. And those who mourn before His presence shall never be sent away empty from His Throne of Grace.

In God is our trust, and we will not be afraid of what man can do to us, since God lives and we shall also live and reign with Him. Therefore, we are comforted in this blessed hope.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

The Daughter of Herodias

Dear Girls and Boys,

John the Baptist, who had been sent to prepare the way for Jesus, was a fearless preacher. He commanded all who heard him to repent. He spoke to the lowly, the soldiers, lawyers and doctors. He even spoke against the ruler, Herod Antipas.

John the Baptist told Herod it was wrong for him to take his brother's wife in marriage. Her name was Herodias. Herod became angry and arrested John. He had John bound and put in prison. John was not afraid of the king and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." Herod was mad enough to have John killed but John had many friends who could rise up against the king. They thought John a prophet.

Herodias was angry too with John. She was a wicked woman. She had a daughter and Herod was very fond of her. Herodias thought of a plan where she could use her daughter to destroy John the Baptist.

On Herod's birthday a party was held in his honor. Many guests were present at the palace. The daughter of Herodias danced before them. This so pleased the king that he promised to grant her any wish she asked. Now Herodias thought this might happen, so she told her daughter that if the king made such a promise to her, she should ask, "Give me John the Baptist's head on a charger." The king was sorry she had made this request, but he had promised and his guests had heard it. He dared not go back on his word.

Herod sent his men to the prison to kill John and bring his head on a platter. They soon returned and gave the charger to the damsel as she had requested. She took it to her mother who had planned this terrible act.

Word soon spread among the people about John's death. His disciples came and took the body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened. The people knew of Jesus' great love for John the Baptist of whom Jesus had said, "There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

You can read this interesting story in the book of Matthew chapter fourteen and Mark six.

Sincerely,

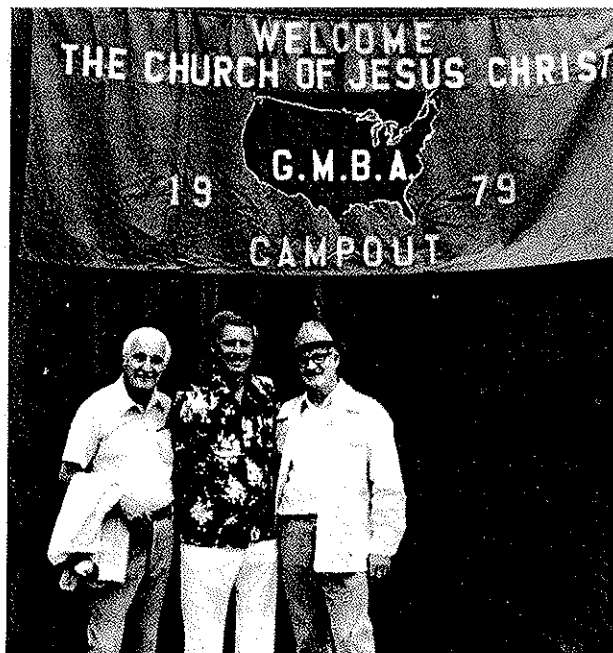
Sister Mabel

M. B. A. Highlights

CALIFORNIA: HERE WE COME!

By

Assistant GMBA Editor: Ryan Gene Ross



Brothers Nick Zinzi, Duane Lowe and George Johnson.

The 1981 GMBA Campout and Conference will be held in California as a result of the majority vote received by the congregation at GMBA Conference held in the General Church Auditorium on May 19, 1979.

The selection of California has been long awaited by our Brothers and Sisters "out West", and many of the "Easterners" now have a good reason to make that trip that they have put off for so many years. The choice of 1981 permits the Brothers and Sisters in California to have sufficient time to find a suitable location (preferably as far away from the San Andreas Fault as possible) and those Brothers and Sisters east of the Mississippi to begin to save their pennies (to pay for gasoline).

Campout 1980 will probably be held at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, Virginia as a result of the vote taken at the 1978 GMBA Conference that we would attend the same camp three years in a row ('78, '79 and '80) so that we might obtain a better choice of date, which would allow many of our school-bound children to attend campout.

Speaking of Campout '79, we had 17 people ask for their baptism. They are as follows:

Dirk Large, Levittown, Pa. Baptized by Samuel Dell; confirmed by Jerry Benyola.

Michael DiFede, Lake Worth, Fla. Baptized by Michael Radd; confirmed by Joseph Catone, Sr.



Community singing before the Sunday service.

Candace Ross, Aliquippa, Pa. Baptized by Paul Palmiere; confirmed by Thomas Ross.

Thomas Rogolino, Brooklyn, N.Y. Baptized by Walter Cihomsky; confirmed by Elmer Santilli

Joseph D. Arcuri, Metuchen, N.J. Baptized by Joseph Arcuri; confirmed by Saverio Risola.

Candy Sue Swanger, Herndon, Va. Baptized by Michael Hildenbrand; confirmed by George Timms.

Denise Campitelle, Detroit No. 1. Baptized by Norman Campitelle; confirmed by Nick Pietrangelo.

James Miller, Broward, Fla. Baptized by Joseph Catone, Sr.; confirmed by Dominic Moraco.

Dawn Francione, Detroit No. 3. Baptized by Donald Ross; confirmed by Russell Martorana.

Tamara Smith, Lakeside, Ariz. Baptized by Donald Ross; confirmed by Anthony Lovalvo.

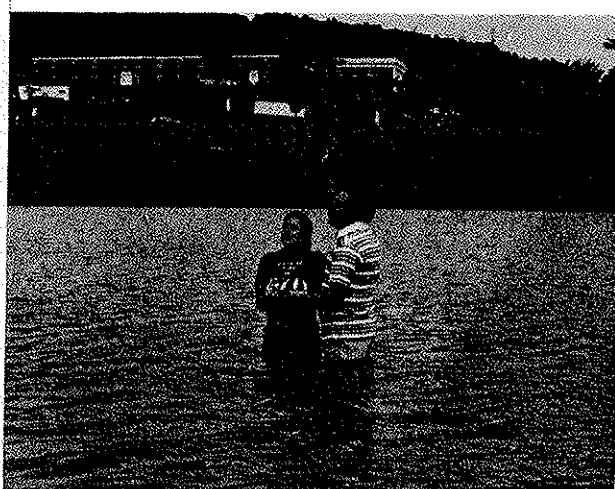
Lisa Rinehart, Lake Worth, Fla. Baptized by Dominic Moraco; confirmed by Joseph Catone, Sr.

Dane Obradovich, Lake Worth, Fla. Baptized by Duane Lowe; confirmed by Michael Radd.

Letti (Pebbles) Large, Levittown, Pa. Baptized by Nick Pietrangelo; confirmed by Norman Campitelle.



Brother Norman Campitelle teaching seminars.



Brother Paul Palmieri baptizing Sister Candace Ross.

Lisa Rogolino, Brooklyn, N.Y. Baptized by Walter Cihomsky; confirmed by Jerry Valenti, Sr.

Thomas Smith, Lakeside, Ariz. Baptized by Anthony Lovalvo; confirmed by Harold Burge.

Nedra Obradovich, Lake Worth, Fla. Baptized by Donald Ross; confirmed by George Johnson.

Laurie Whitton (to be baptized at Sterling Heights, Michigan on 6-24-79).

— — —

A total of 613 people who visited the camp represented California, Arizona, Kansas, Toronto, Canada; Michigan, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Lord blessed our group with a week long of gorgeous weather as we participated in seminars (the topic was "Know Your Church"), recreation and socializing. But most importantly, our Brothers and Sisters had sufficiently prepared themselves through fasting and prayer before campout began, such that the Lord blessed us a hundredfold with preaching, dreams, visions, prayer, testimony and baptisms. The Spirit of God seemed to take more precedence over the other activities, as seen by the willingness of the Brothers and Sisters to stop



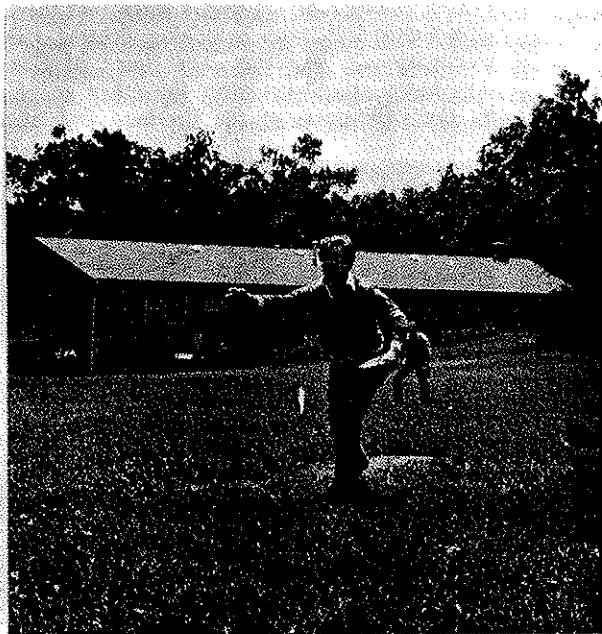
Brother Walter Cihomsky baptizing Brother Thomas Rogolino.



Several of our new Brothers and Sisters after their baptisms.

other activities in favor of the many baptisms, early morning prayer meetings and impromptu singing and testimony meetings. Truly it will be a week long to be remembered by all those in attendance. And as if 17 baptisms were not enough, we have been offered the date of July 5-11, 1980 to attend Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia. This mid-summer date is expected to swell attendance to nearly 800 people for next year's campout.

As a side note to all those who attended camp, let us not forget to be helpful to our newly-baptized Brothers and Sisters. They need our support. Secondly, let us continue to exercise that same spirit of "preparation" with ourselves so we may enjoy the same blessings of God back home in our Branches. Finally, let us "ration" the great blessings we received at camp so that even in February 1980, we can pick ourselves up by thinking of Campout '79.



Brother Stacey Light pitching for the "Trimmers".

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

Three Ordained

Sunday, April 8, 1979 at Levittown Mission, after much prayer and counseling with the Lord, three young Brothers were ordained to the offices of Deacon and Teacher. The message that day was that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Just as He had guided Moses, and Lehi, in the days of old, so will He also guide us, if we seek His will in our lives. Thus the Lord had proven Himself again to be just and true to His word, for surely He had granted these Brothers wisdom to choose these three worthy young Brothers.

Brother David Connor and Brother Jim Speck, Jr., were ordained to the office of Deacon. Brother Jerry Valenti, Jr. was ordained to the office of Teacher.

Brother David Connor— feet washed by Brother Samuel Dell, and ordained by Brother Jim Link, a visiting Elder from the Bronx Branch.

Brother Jim Speck, Jr.— feet washed by Brother Dominic Rose, a visiting Elder from the Brooklyn Branch, and ordained by Brother Samuel Dell.

Brother Jerry Valenti, Jr.— feet washed by Brother Frank Cervone, Presiding Teacher, and ordained by his father, Brother Gerard Valenti.

This is another testimony unto all that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will guide us through every rough place in our path, and we as people of God will come through victorious, if we prove faithful to the end. Our prayer is that we, as the Saints of the most high God, may continue to bring forth the precious words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all kindred, tongues and people, gaining more loyal soldiers for His army.

Sister Renee Connor, Editor
Levittown Mission

Reunion At Windsor, Ontario Branch

On Saturday evening, April 28, 1979, the Windsor Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ held a reunion in the church building.

Former members from Florida, California and Michigan were represented as well as our out-of-town Brothers and Sisters from Sudbury, Meaford, London and Guelph; all came to spend this special evening with us.

As we entered the church we received a name tag from Sister Anne Wright and Diana Matthew, we were then pinned by John Saliga and were ready to renew old acquaintances and make new ones more easily.

A welcoming speech was offered by our Presiding Elder Brother Bob Stanek as we opened our meeting by singing the hymn, "Welcome Best of all Friends". At this time we felt to honour our senior Brothers and Sisters, without whose love and devotion our Branch would not have prospered and grown. A brief history of our Branch was presented by Sister Adrienne Collison. It traced the lives of many of those who met with us this night. Sister Olanda Peltier spoke of the care of these older members of the Church towards us who are just starting along the spiritual road.

A carnation was presented to each one of them by Sisters Olive Elzby and Ruth Stanek as a small token of our love and respect. As they received their flower each one of these wonderful Brothers and Sisters told us of their conversion, where they were baptized, the date and by whom they were baptized. Some spoke of their search, some of their trials, but all were uplifting and encouraging to those of us who had gathered to be with them.

A poem entitled the "Bridge Builder" was read by Sister Ethel Henderson; surely it describes the work that our older members have done to make our walk along the gospel road more successful.

To end this portion of the evening we sang the beautiful hymn, "Precious Memories". We then met in the basement of our building to continue the sharing of memories surrounded by pictures of past and present events that are now a part of our little Branch.

We enjoyed a veritable feast of good things which had been prepared by our Sisters as we exchanged our love one with another. An evening well spent in love and remembrance; but the best is yet to come.

On Sunday morning, April 29, 1979, we were pleased that many of the Brothers, Sisters and friends visiting for the reunion were able to spend Sunday worshipping with us.

God's Spirit was felt along with the joys of fellowship with Saints from various Branches of the Church.

During the morning meeting, while we were singing, our Sister from London, Ontario stood and asked to be rebaptized into the Church. This good news welcomed in the service.

Brother Otto Henderson of California then got up to open our service. During this time many memories were recalled as he spoke on how God has dealt with the Saints and of His workings with the Windsor Branch. He and Sister Dorothy were allowed to visit this past week with us. Brother Chuck Smith of Florida followed Brother Otto in preaching.

Following the morning service and a quick lunch, the Saints met at the water shore. Brother Bob Stanek baptized Sister Marilyn Finlay.

Unfortunately a few families had to leave at this time for their long journey home.

The rest of the Saints gathered back at the church for the confirmation and sacrament. Our testimony meeting went on into the late afternoon hours. We were sorry to see the lovely day end. Even though our visitors were leaving us we realized that the blessings received and friendships made would remain with us. And for this we can truly thank God.

Written in two parts by:

Sister Melissa Matthew, editor

Sister Cindy Henderson, asst. editor

News From Windsor, Ontario Branch

On Sunday, May 20, we were treated to have our Brother Teachers, Brother Dick Lobzun and Brother Larry Henderson, offer a sermon inspired by the Spirit of the

Lord. The text was from Acts 4:31, 32, the theme being one that has been recurring in our last few meetings and also in our MBA: "feasting on the words of the Lord", drawing from them knowledge and understanding, that we might be better servants to our Lord and Saviour. We were asked to dedicate ourselves and all our doings to the Lord, no matter how small or insignificant we might think them to be. By so doing, we will never go wrong.

After our morning meeting, we met in the basement of the church building to have lunch. As we were enjoying our food, the telephone rang, and we were informed of the birth of a baby girl to Sister Linda Nantais and her husband Dennis. A birth is always a blessed and wondrous event. Our joy was such that we shouted with it!

As we met together for our afternoon meeting, the spirit of new birth remained with us. The testimonies given and the hymns called told us that the calling Spirit of the Lord was among us. Our Presiding Elder, Brother Bob Stanek, was inspired of God to offer a prayer for the new baby and for the sake of all those who had not yet rendered obedience unto the Lord.

When the prayer was finished, Brother Dick Lobzun testified that the Lord was calling one person this day. As there were not many unbaptized present, we searched the faces of those around us. It is funny how we sometimes try to limit God. We could see the faces of the unbaptized in our midst, while the Lord was looking on the heart of one whom we could not see.

My daughter, Diana Matthew, who had been looking after one of the babies in the cry room, suddenly burst from that room and declared that she felt the Lord was calling her, and she desired to be baptized. I have prayed often for the welfare of my daughter, and nothing could have made me happier than to see her standing on her feet making this beautiful declaration. I know all of you who have children will know the joy that we felt that day.

As Diana is only fifteen years of age, the Ministry asked her to wait a week before being baptized. On Sunday, May 27, after our morning meeting, she was taken down to the waters of baptism by Brother Ken Wright. When she emerged, she was as a new creature, pure and clean, ready to start her new life in the service of God. She was confirmed by Brother Sam Cuomo.

Sister Melissa Matthew
Windsor Branch Editor

Ordination Of Elders At Broward County Mission, Florida

On Sunday, May 6, 1979, we witnessed the ordination of our two new Elders, Brothers Dennis Moraco and Joseph Catone, Sr. We all gathered at the Lake Worth Branch building, and we were blessed with such a beautiful and glorious day. Many visitors from various areas were present.

Brother John Ali from the Glassport, Pa. Branch washed Brother Joe Catone's feet, and Brother Alvin Swanson anointed and ordained him an Elder.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo from Detroit No. 1, Michigan washed Brother Dennis' feet, and he was anointed

and ordained an Elder by his father, Brother Dominic Moraco.

What a beautiful spirit was felt by all. The gift of tongues was spoken, the interpretation being given as follows: "Mine is the Kingdom, and Power and the Glory," thus saith the Lord.

Then, the newly ordained Elder, Brother Dennis Moraco, presented to the Lord his little son, Anthony Joseph Moraco, and blessed him.

We can't praise God enough for the blessings He has bestowed on our little Mission. This was a day that will be remembered always.

Editor, Sister Frances DiNardo

News From Lakeside

God is so good — as the song goes. He has been good to us at the Lakeside Branch. We have the satisfaction of knowing that through His goodness, we have been directed to this place and have His assurance that this work will prevail.

Our main desire here is to further the work of the Church, the restoration of the Gospel to the House of Israel.

Working among God's chosen people is an experience of anticipation for the many promises made to them, and also a challenge that worketh patience. The responsibility we each feel is great, and the prayers of the Saints are crucial.

We wish to thank all those who remember our work here. Your varying kinds of support are needed and appreciated. May God add His blessing is our prayer.

Sister Bonnie Smith
Branch Editor

Food For Thought

On March 23, 1979, the M.B.A. and Sunday School of Branch No. 1 in Detroit sponsored a "Potluck" dinner. The event was very successful and harbored many visitors. The dinner was followed by a guest speaker, Brother Frank Morle, from Detroit Branch No. 2, who opened our eyes to many current happenings.

Brother Morle began the service with hymn No. 89, "I Know Whom I Have Believed," a favorite of Brother Burgess. He then directed his sermon on the topic of sin. He discussed the effects of sin on young people. Today, the meaning of the word "sin" is becoming extinct. More and more people are drifting into sin; however, they're claiming that their actions are perfectly justifiable. Sin has become a trait common to many households. People are becoming distorted and confused over the meaning of sin, and they're finding it hard to distinguish between justifiable acts and sinful acts. This common trait that is developing has even had an effect on our terminology. Common nouns have taken on new meanings that imply sinful origins.

Brother Morle also heeded us to avoid the following sins: avarice, lust, greed, gluttony, envy, waste, and

pride. If we do not watch ourselves and catch our mistakes now, we will later fall deeper into sin, lest it be too late.

Brother Morle's company was enjoyed by all. He enlightened us and provided us with much evidence that broadened our insights. The evening brought a spiritual uplifting to all. Furthermore, Brother Morle, left us with two messages. The first is that we should NEVER be afraid to serve God. The second is that we must pull together and pray continuously, lest we will fall apart.

Cathy Mulla
Detroit, Branch No. 1

Ordinations At Detroit Branch No. 1

On Sunday, May 27, 1979, Detroit Branch No. 1 was filled with Saints and friends, as we saw our Brothers Louis Pietrangelo and Peter A. Scolaro ordained into the Priesthood. Aside from the many who visited us from other Branches in the Michigan-Ontario District, we were privileged to have the families of Brother John Ali from Glassport, Pa. and Brother John Griffith from Monongahela, Pa. in attendance with us.

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo from Detroit Branch No. 2 opened the morning service, speaking on the attributes and responsibilities of Church members. He drew the conclusion that the qualities of a good servant of God are important to all members, whether they be ordained into an office or not. Brother John Griffith followed, stressing the fact that the natural man in each of us must die and be replaced with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The afternoon meeting was opened by Brother John Ali. He spoke on how we owe everything in our lives to our Blessed Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Brother Dominic Thomas followed, elaborating on Brother Ali's words, and went on to discuss the office of an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. After he spoke, a trio consisting of Sisters Carolyn Griffith, Kathleen Perkins and Marilyn Scolaro sang "To Be Used of God", accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino. The song was sung beautifully and set the perfect mood for the ordinations that followed.

Brother Dominic Moraco washed the feet of Brother Peter Scolaro, and Brother Lou Pietrangelo's feet were washed by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, his brother. Before the ordinations took place, the twenty-three Elders present knelt in prayer, petitioning the Lord to send His Spirit. The Elders then formed a circle while Brother Spencer Everett ordained Brother Peter and Brother Jerry Benyola ordained Brother Lou. As our two new Elders were welcomed into the Priesthood by all the Elders, the congregation sang "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow". Brother Gorie Ciaravino then spoke briefly on the important role of an Elder's wife.

After the closing hymn, Presiding Elder Paul Vitto called on Brother Peter to close in prayer. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless and direct these Brothers in their ministry.

Brother Anthony J. Scolaro

Visitors Come To Detroit Branch No. 1

On May 6, 1979, we had the privilege to have Brother and Sister Rocco Biscotti spend the day with us. Brother Rocco opened the service by having the young people sing "Do You Know My Jesus?"

His opening remarks were about his life. He was 19 years of age when we came into the Church and was ordained an Elder when he was 20. He has been in the Church for 56 years. Brother Rocco said that the Elders are to set an example for the young people. He then read to us from 1st Peter, Chapter 2.

He related an experience of how he wanted to go to California. He went, and as a result, lost all that he had. He couldn't go without the Church, so he came back. He replied that obedience is better than sacrifice.

He also said that the Ministry should be able to go to God for anything, and if they have faith, it will come to pass. He also related that one time he went to a Sister's home in New Jersey. There were 5 people, plus children, and they asked Brother Rocco and the others to stay and eat. All they had was one loaf of bread and a few greens. The Lord multiplied the food, and they all had enough to eat.

Brother Norman Campitelle then followed, relating how he marvelled that when there were probably many blessings and discouragements when you have God in your home, you have peace and joy. He said that if you stick up for the Church, you will always have opposition. He urged us to hold steadfast to what is true.

We pray that God will continue to bless Brother and Sister Biscotti as they endeavor to press forward in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sister Diane Everett,
Branch Editor

News From Branch No. 3, Detroit

The Lord saw fit to shower us with blessings on Sunday, May 6, 1979. Surely, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled Our Souls" to capacity.

Brother Frank Vitto, our Presiding Elder, opened our meeting with intentions of a preaching service, but the Lord saw fit to change things around. As long as the Brothers are willing subjects, the Lord can work His wonders.

Brother Frank Vitto asked Sisters Diane Hawkins and Alyse Molisani to sing a hymn. They sang "God Is Love", which emanated a beautiful, peaceful spirit.

Brother Mario Coppa made a request to our Presiding Elder to have Brother Frank DiDonato (visiting from Sterling Heights) sing a solo. Brother Frank Vitto sensed the day would be something special. He carried through with that feeling, and we can thank God for the spirit of discernment, for he asked Brother DiDonato to step forward and bear his testimony. In so doing, Brother DiDonato recalled how he was seeking the world and all its glitter. But, the glitter faded. We all received such a blessing in hearing his account. He chose to sing his favorite hymn, "He Touched Me". The congregation joined in the chorus, and "oh, the joy that filled our souls" to overflowing.

Brother Attilio Trovarelli testified that the previous night, he had an experience that he saw his cousin, Brother Frank DiDonato, visit our Branch. Consequently, he had a strong desire to see him. The Lord truly answered his desire.

Brother Dan Parravano couldn't help but recall his day of rebirth. The details surrounding his surrender to Christ were a blessing to recollect.

Brother Jack Pontillo was overcome by the spirit and could not contain himself. He asked permission to speak. The words were very well inspired from *Matthew 16:26*: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Brother Gary Coppa elaborated on that same portion of scripture.

To sum up the day, Brother Frank Vitto said, "Surely the Lord was our Presiding Elder this day, and He should always preside in every meeting." Brother Vitto encouraged us to rely on the spirit for guidance and to pray fervently for God's blessings.

* * *

Recently, we here in Detroit were both honored and blessed to have Brother Joseph Lovalvo in our midst. We always enjoy hearing the wonderful words of teaching from one of our Apostles.

One of our District Officers, Brother Frank Vitto, invited Brother Joe Lovalvo to spend a few days in the Detroit area. On Tuesday, April 24, we met at Branch No. 4. A reasonable number of Brothers and Sisters were present, plus a good number representing the Priesthood. There was a feeling of anticipation as the meeting got under way. We heard two beautiful hymns by the Champine brothers. The Lord has truly blessed their efforts in singing praises to His name.

Brother Joe Lovalvo's message for the evening was centered around Stephen, the accusation of blasphemy against him by false witnesses, and Stephen's expert handling of his own defense. Brother Joe related how Stephen saw the glory of God just before he was stoned to death. What a great example this servant of God has placed before us. What unswerving faith he must have had.

On Wednesday, April 25, Branch No. 3 was filled to capacity. There was representation from all Branches in Detroit, plus Brother Jim Scalise from Bell, California. Again, Brother Lovalvo was able to teach us and expound the scriptures. Brother Jim Scalise gave some encouraging remarks, along with Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Frank Vitto, closed our meeting, admonishing every spiritual endeavor. How wonderful to have our Brothers visit us from time to time. It enriches our souls and gives us a stronger determination to rededicate ourselves. We always enjoy the teachings and sermons our Brothers present. We know it is recompense from long hours of study and fasting and prayer.

Brother Frank Vitto has promised Branch No. 3 that he will invite other Brothers from the Priesthood to visit with us. We are looking forward to this, especially our experienced older Brothers, for time is of the essence.

Sister Kay Vitto,
Branch No. 3 Editor

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Tracy Lynn to Dennis and Linda Marie Nantais of the Windsor, Ontario Branch;

Jason Adam to Joseph and Joyce Vargo of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan.

— WEDDINGS —

D'ANTONIO - LECCE

Mr. John Mark D'Antonio and Miss Jo Ann Lecce were united in holy wedlock on June 2, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother John Ross, and he was assisted by Brother Paul Palmieri. Brother Ken Staley, the soloist, was accompanied by the organist, Sister Sharon Staley.

The newlyweds will reside in Aliquippa, Pa.

OBRADOVICH - RINEHART

Brother Dane M. Obradovich and Sister Lisa Marie Rinehart of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch were united in matrimony at the 1979 GMBA Campout in Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia on June 14, 1979.

Brother Dominic Moraco officiated at the ceremony and was assisted by Brother Duane Lowe. Sister Florence Lombardo, the pianist, accompanied the ensemble from various Branches and Missions who sang two musical selections.

Brother Dane and Sister Lisa were both baptized on the morning of their wedding. May God richly bless them as they begin their new life with God and with each other.

RAMSEY - FEHER

Brother Robert Ramsey and Sister Joyce Feher exchanged wedding vows on June 9, 1979 at the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

Brother Dennis Calabrese officiated at the ceremony and also sang a solo. Other musical solos were presented by the bride and by Sister Iva Fedorka. Brother Phillip Benyola accompanied on the piano and organ.

The newlyweds will reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

MORRIS - SAYLER

Mr. Thomas Allen Morris and Miss Christine Lovelle

Sayler were united in marriage on April 7, 1979 in Birmingham, Ohio.

Brother Joseph Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony and was assisted by Brother Frank Calabrese.

● OBITUARIES ●

NINA ANN GARRONE

Sister Nina Ann Garrone left this life on May 8, 1979. She was a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Nina was born on May 22, 1893 and was baptized on February 21, 1960. She is survived by four brothers, four sons and one daughter, Sister Bea Finley of the Bell, California Branch.

Brother Vincent Scalise officiated the funeral ser-

HORACE M. CONNOR, JR.

Brother Horace Connor, a member of the Levittown Mission, passed on to his eternal reward on March 15, 1979. He was born on August 23, 1927 and was baptized on August 19, 1962. He was ordained a Deacon on May 28, 1972. He is survived by his wife, three sons, a daughter and two brothers.

Brothers Samuel Dell and Nathan Peterkin officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Connor was a loyal and devoted soldier in the army of our Lord. He fought a good fight, and now he is reaping his reward.

ELIZABETH CADMAN DAVIDSON

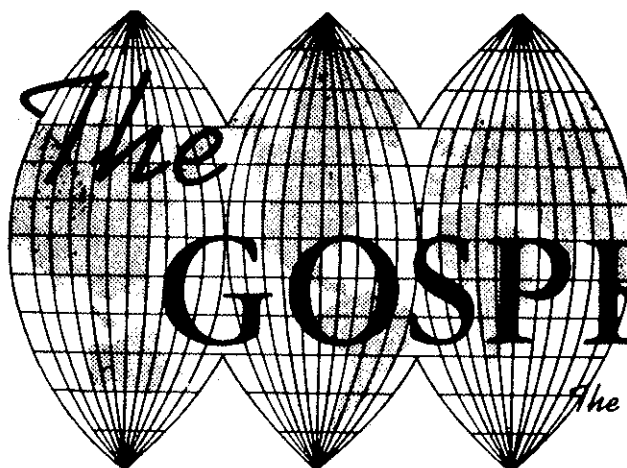
Sister Elizabeth Amanda Heath Cadman Davidson, a member of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to her heavenly reward on May 11, 1979 at the age of 107. She was born on February 16, 1872 and baptized in October 1887.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Russell Cadman (her nephew), Idris Martin and Joseph Bittinger. Sister Davidson is survived by three step-children and many nieces and nephews.

During her 92 years in God's service, Sister Elizabeth served as a General Church Deaconess, first President of the GMBA, Vice President of the Ladies Uplift Circle, and was a member of the Women's Bible Class in the Monongahela Branch.

Sister Davidson will be sadly missed by all her family and Brothers and Sisters who knew her. She will long be remembered for her faithful years in the service of the Lord.

Editor's Note: A more detailed account of Sister Davidson's life is to be found on page 7 of the April, 1979, issue of The Gospel News.



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IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

QUESTION: IN THESE DAYS OF ATOMIC WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR SCARE, WHAT SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF GOD DO, OR HOW SHALL THEY RE-ACT?

The first thing that comes to my mind, in answer to the above question, are the words found in the 91st Psalm: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust."

If one is living a righteous life, and keeping the commandments of the Lord, such a one is dwelling in the "secret place" of the Almighty. One cannot say, "In Him will I trust" only with the lips; it must be said in FAITH, with complete trust in God. The Psalmist continues, "Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence." No matter what the dire conditions existing on the earth today, the Saints of God must live by "Faith", relying on the Lord to deliver them from any and all evil. What greater interpretation of the "noisome pestilence" than a thunderous explosion of an Atomic bomb and its aftermath? Remember Nagasaki and the terrible toll of human lives and the untold sufferings afterwards; and of Hiroshima and its destruction. But, again I say that the Saints have an assurance in the Word, "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

Only a few have a knowledge of the tremendous and destructive force of nuclear power. Every big nation has atomic and nuclear knowledge at their disposal. They also have stockpiles of atomic weapons that if discharged at each other could easily bring a total and terrifying end to the world. But, the end of the world shall not come by man-made weapons, terrible as they are, but by the power of God who shall unleash His wrath upon the earth, when the SIXTH seal is opened by the Lamb of God. So, it is written, And I beheld, when He had opened the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth,

even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bond-man, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the WRATH of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:12-17) So, let the reader ponder upon the word of God; it is not man that shall bring the utter destruction and the end of the world, but God Almighty by His power; and because man has defiled His word, His wrath shall be poured upon the earth.

Consider for a moment how sin has run rampant upon the face of the earth. Men and women living together as man and wife without being joined legally, either by law or by the clergy. For a woman to save herself for the nuptial bed is considered (by many) passe, a foolish gesture. Goodness and righteousness are given an entirely opposite translation and definition; sin is considered the right thing to do; divorce is increasing by leaps and bounds (one of every two marriages end in divorce); the abominable things hated by God are being tolerated and condoned, all in the rationale "Every one must do what he thinks is right." How long shall the Lord tolerate the wickedness of the world? If it were not for the righteousness and faithful living of those who truly believe in God, He would have destroyed this world a long time ago.

If the words in the 91st Psalm are to be interpreted literally, then the Saints of God need not fear, no matter what sort of deadly weapons the world keeps on making. The Psalmist says, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shall thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." What beautiful comforting words. The psalm does not say that the Saints of God would not be in the center of the destructions, but gives comfort, in that "it shall not come nigh thee." And, "only with thine eyes shall thou behold and see the reward of the wicked." Remember that which is written in the Book of Mormon concerning the great destruction at the time when Christ was crucified. It says that only the "more righteous were spared." The more righteous "saw"

with their eyes, and beheld the "Reward" of the wicked which was the wrath of God poured out upon them. Thousands were destroyed and "fell" on either hand, but God was Mighty to save the more righteous among them.

The Psalmist continues to write that the righteous would be spared "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation." Therefore, to those who make the Lord their "habitation", or who, in other words, have made their "tabernacles" the abiding place for the Spirit of God, need not fear, for "He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." It says that, "They (the angels of God) shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." What glorious hopes for the Saints of God; deliverance in time of trouble and woe through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. What splendid promises to those who serve Him in spirit and in truth. The Psalm ends with these assuring words, "With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation." I praise the Lord for these wonderful words of life. Adversities will come, no doubt, but, as long as we put our trust in Him, He will deliver us from all evil.

So, lift up your heads, ye Saints of Latter days, and keep trusting in the Lord of heaven. Remember this: The end of the world cannot come until certain prophecies are fulfilled. The Seed of Joseph (American Indians) shall arise in glory and power; the Choice Seer must come forth and do his work among his people; the Twelve Tribes of Israel must be gathered together upon this land of America; the records, spoken of in the 4th chapter of Ether, must come forth to the Gentile church; the New Jerusalem must be built upon this land by the Seed of Joseph; and the kingdom of God (the Peaceful Reign) must become a reality, where the lion and the lamb will lie down together, etc.

While the world is girding itself for war by building instruments of destruction, let the Saints of God continue to build up righteousness and holiness which will bring about the glory and the power of God so that the sinner may be able to "SEE" that there is a God who rules in heaven and earth, and who has a people serving Him in Faith, Hope, and Charity.

PEOPLE ARE INQUIRING

Dear Editor,

Following is a letter that is the direct result of "People Are Inquiring". This new Brother had a wonderful experience in a meeting on May 27, 1979. He had had an experience 5½ years before about walking into a deep muddy area, eventually reaching a solid brick wall and road. He saw from the top of this road a hand reach down and pick him up.

In the meeting of May 27 at the New Orleans, Louisiana Mission, while Brother Ron Genaro was speaking, he was telling Brother William Bickerton's experience of the road he saw with many beautiful flowers on the left and right, but under the flowers was mud. If any would walk off the road, they would sink in the mud.

Again, while Brother Ron was relating this in his sermon, Brother Jim Adkins remembered his dream of

5½ years before. This Brother was a member of three other factions of the Restoration. That is why he said he felt the assurance or the authority of God's Priesthood in this baptism rather than the others he had had before.

Regards,
Brother Joseph Calabrese

Rt. 5, Box 550A
Gulfport, Mississippi 39530
June 13, 1979

"Dear Brother Calabrese,

I am happy to write to let you know that Sunday morning, June 10th, I obeyed the Father's command to come unto Him and enter in at the gate by being baptized by one having authority. Brother Genaro performed the baptism in Lake Pontchartrain and it was a beautiful sunny morning and there was such a sweet spirit there as the Saints stood on the shore singing hymns. There were no great signs or visions but I can say a sweet peace came over me and I now feel that I am no longer at odds with my Heavenly Father. The peace and assurance that came over me can't be described in words. The whole day was one of unspeakable joy. I know that this is not the end of the journey, only the beginning of my service in the Church. I can't help but ask why the Lord kept pushing me along that I would finally find His Church. My prayer is that I will be faithful and do whatever He may ask of me. Your words that I would no longer be a wanderer are very welcome after such a long, tiring search for the truth. I can truly say that God has revealed the authority of His Priesthood to me and this assurance was not present in any of my other baptisms in the other factions of the Restoration.

I ask that you continue to remember me in your prayers and I wish to thank you for helping me to find the COMPLETE truth of the Latter Day Gospel.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Jim Adkins"

Greetings,

With God, the past is present, the future now.
He set forth the stars with their proper goal,
Until both men and beast before Him bow.
But man He created with a living soul.

Because He has created man, He has set His pleasure on him, and through the ages has guided, warned and counselled him. But alas, man lacks understanding and the proper discernment to know his Lord.

God has compassion on man, because man is a victim of his own vanity and selfish nature, and because man seeks not the knowledge of his God or what is the will and pleasure of his Creator. Man often falls into many temptations; thus, in the Lord's prayer it is written, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

On February 28, I departed for Belize, Central America. I was picked up by two couples, Robert and Betty Putt and Van Dewjgoorde and his wife, Denise,

both formerly from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. They took me to Benque Viejo, where a project of 128 acres had been organized of a non-profit corporation.

They are mostly young people. Their idea is to help the poor natives scholastically and religiously. They have a teacher for children and classes for all ages. After being there two weeks, I was asked to be their minister and counselor. I performed a wedding ceremony, joining a young couple formerly from Michigan. Daily visiting and speaking of our faith, I was beginning to feel my way, when I was stricken once again with heart pain more severe than I could stand.

I raised my hands toward the sky and appealed for help from God. I slowly went to my hut to lay down, but could not rest. I was taken to Dr. Mundall, who, upon listening to my heart and checking my cardiogram, said I had had an acute coronary. He suggested my family should be notified, which he did.

That day, I felt a hand on my chest as I slept. It was as a dream, but felt so good, completely relieving me of the pain I had endured.

My two sons came, Samuel and Joseph. It was like seeing angels coming into the room. We left on March 12, and I was hospitalized in West Jackson Hospital in New Orleans. Seeing our Brothers and Sisters there was so good. I asked Brother Ron Genaro, who is our minister in New Orleans, to anoint me and pray for me. As he was praying, I saw, though my eyes were closed, the face of a person watching over me, assuring me that all would be alright.

I remained in that hospital until I was able to travel towards home. I am recuperating fast, I think, considering what happened. I believe all things have purpose, and that this also has a lesson, whatever it may be. May even this be for the glory of God.

The affection and concern of those who have called and written is proof of true love. Though my trip was cut short, I learned of a strong and real possibility in helping the Maya tribes of Guatemala, while there are most all denominations. This idea of helping by forming a non-profit corporation for the purpose of teaching the poor who otherwise have no possible chance and giving them the knowledge of the Restored Gospel is great. Also, the school system appreciates such an effort. I talked both to the school leaders and to the government of Belize, and they said that the land would be tax free and the school would assist with text books and the exams if the teachers are accredited.

My abiding love to all of you in Christ,
Marco Randy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My wife and I left Vero Beach, Florida on June 11 by plane for Warren, Ohio, where our family was waiting for us. On Wednesday and Sunday of the first week, we met with the Brothers and Sisters at the Warren Branch. It was a joy to speak to them and to hear their testimonies also. On Wednesday evening, June 20, my son Jerry and I attended the service at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch where many had not seen me for some time, and we

rejoiced together. My son Frank took me to the Perry Mission the following Sunday, where I used as my text *Mosiah, Chapter 5* and also told of some experiences we have had, and God's blessing prevailed.

On June 27, Jerry and I attended the Niles Branch, where we renewed acquaintances with the many Brothers and Sisters with whom we had served God for many years previous. It was a prayer service, but some time was devoted to speaking, at which time I spoke of the Jewish queen Esther. It was through her that all the Jews in 127 provinces were spared.

We had a "mini-conference" in Lorain, Ohio on July 1. Brothers Dominic Thomas, Ike Smith, Rocco Biscotti, John Romano and their families, my wife and I, and many young people from various Branches and Missions of The Church were in attendance. What a wonderful spirit prevailed. On Wednesday evening, I attended Lorain's MBA service, where the teacher, Brother Joseph Calabrese, turned the service over to preaching and testimony. I was able to tell of many experiences that God granted us since we obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On July 8, Frank and I attended the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch, and the remainder of the Sundays were spent with the Warren Branch. All in all, I feel that my prayer has been answered, that I wanted to be a blessing wherever I could attend the Church services. Thank God that He gave us another opportunity to visit with the Brothers and Sisters up North and also with our relatives.

Brother Dominic Giovannone

MY YOUTH IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

I first met the Gospel through my mother who was baptized in 1908 at Little Red Stone, Pennsylvania. Baptized with her that same day was Apostle John Penn. I was fourteen years old at that time.

In 1915, I was baptized by Brother John Ward and confirmed by Brother Alexander Cherry, who was then the President of The Church. I was raised in Coal Valley, Pennsylvania, and most of my neighbors were Apostles of The Church. Later, my parents moved to Monongahela, Pennsylvania and were employed by the American Window Glass Factory in New Eagle, Pennsylvania.

At that time, we did not have very many members, just a few old people. Working in the glass factory was Brother George Neill, Sr. I then left for World War I for eighteen months. We were fighting a war that would end all wars, but it seems it was only the beginning of future wars. My good God of heaven brought me safely home. We had five thousand soldiers on a ship named Mongolia when we saw the Statue of Liberty. Most of us cried. We called the Statue of Liberty "the woman with something in her hand".

God bless those Saints in Monongahela. When I arrived home (not to boast), a person would have thought a king had arrived. They all showered me with blessings. I grew up in the Gospel with God's love in my heart.

When I left to go to the war, the Saints of Monongahela gave me a New Testament. My buddies would call me "the soldier with the Bible".

I enjoy reading the Bible and the Book of Mormon. I enjoy all the scriptures, especially the 8th Chapter of Romans where Paul says "Nothing shall separate us from the love of God." When we talk about love and the gift of God's love in our heart, it is a wonderful gift. It binds us all together in the love of Christ Jesus. We all should thank God every day of our lives for this wonderful Gospel. This life is a preparation for the life to come. If it is not possible to be our brother's keeper, then we can be our brother's brother.

In 1921, I married Elizabeth Gorondy from Donora, Pa. Evangelist Albert Sarver baptized my wife and united us in marriage. I left Monongahela in 1925 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio where I worked for General Motors for 37 years. Then in 1962, I retired and moved to Streetsboro, Ohio in 1964. I am 84 years old and taking care of the Kent, Ohio Mission. I was a member of Cleveland Branch No. 1 for 39 years. My wife Elizabeth passed away in 1975, and I now live alone.

It was not easy for the Saints in my younger days, we walked for miles to get to our meetings. In all kinds of weather, nothing stopped us. Brother Alexander Cherry worked at the Liggett Mill as a night watchman. Brother Robert Kennedy, Brother Sarver, Brother Larbor and I used to visit the Brothers. What great memories those are.

A Sister said to me not long ago, "Brother Lloyd, we live like kings today. Everything comes to our hand by a touch of a button". One night in Coal Valley, Pa., (at that time I was too young to be baptized) a meeting was being held at Brother Ashton's home. The meeting was not appointed ahead of time, but all the Saints met at the Brother's home. The Saints said the Lord directed them to his home.

Brother W. Cadman, Sr. says in Hymn 481, "The Gospel of Jesus has made my soul free. His presence is with me wherever I be. His power will uphold me when troubles assail. His Word stands forever and never doth fail." God bless you all always.

Love in the Gospel,

Brother Oliver Lloyd, Sr.
Kent, Ohio Mission

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.

Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of Thine anointed.

For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee. Psalm 84:8-12.

OUR WOMEN TODAY:

GENERAL CIRCLE CONFERENCE

The General Ladies Uplift Conference was held at Greensburg, Pennsylvania on July 14, 1979. The Sisters that were present were from Canada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Greensburg Circle presented a program entitled "Wonderful Promises". They sang hymns and read portions of The Bible. Sister Mabel Bickerton opened the Conference with a few remarks. God is not slack in His promises—we should be grateful.

The minutes of the last Conference held at Lake Worth, Florida were read. The roll call of officers was had and the reports of the Circles and treasurers were given.

Contributions were made to the Memorial fund in Memory of Sisters Elizabeth Davidson, Ethel Perry, Delvia Lowther, and Brother George Funkhouser.

Communication was read from Sister Lorraine De Mercurio telling about the Sacrament cloths that were sent to Africa. Thirteen sets were sent.

Donations of \$2100.00 was given to the General Church Indian Missionary fund, \$420.00 for Africa, \$100.00 for the Gospel News, \$100.00 to the Evangelists, and \$100.00 to the General Church Fund.

The dates and places for the Conferences in 1980 are March 29, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, July 19, open, and October 4 at Herndon, Virginia.

A motion was made that all the officers of the General Circle be reelected for another year.

The project for the next time is to send layettes to the Indian reservations and Sacrament cloths to Africa.

The next General Circle Conference will be held at Imperial, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1979. A vote of thanks was given to the Greensburg Circle for their hospitality.

The remainder of the meeting was spent by some giving their testimony including an associate of Sister Darlene Large, Paul, a Roman Catholic Priest of India. They were both anointed and a blessing was felt by all present.

The questions and answers are:

Who hath never fought, yet did not fear death, because thy were taught by their mothers that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them? Book of Mormon, Alma 56:47.

What shall happen to every nation that shall war against the House of Israel and Zion? Book of Mormon, I Nephi 22:14.

Where in the New Testament is this verse found.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Bible, I Peter 2:9.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR
Richard Scaglione

EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION
MANAGER
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 228
Fort Defiance, Ariz. 86504

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
3222 Aurora Dr.
Windsor, Ontario N8R1Z1

PENNSYLVANIA
Robert D. Nicklow
502 Gill Hall Road
Clairton, Pa. 15025

BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"The Problems of Divorce"

Divorce continues to pose many problems, changes and heartaches in the lives of adults and children alike when a marriage breaks apart.

The Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau reports that in 1978, some five million children were living with a single divorced parent. There are no statistics showing the number of children among the 35 million people who make up families formed by remarriage, but an estimated four of ten American children will move through a single-parent family situation sometime before age eighteen.

The Enormity of the Problems

The staggering figures and estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Division quite obviously point up the enormity of the problems resulting from divorce. Additionally, it is reliably estimated that for every two marriages in our country, there is one divorce.

A statistical bulletin from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company indicates there were 2,240,000 marriages in 1977 and 1,120,000 divorces.

Nevada, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Idaho had the four highest marriage rates in 1977, in that order. The lowest rate was registered in the District of Columbia, followed in order by Massachusetts, California and New York.

The bulletin also reveals an increasing postponement of marriage in the U.S. and a decline in the remarriage rates of divorced men and women — two trends leading to an overall decrease in the marriage rate.

In 1976, a guidance counselor at Lexington High School, Lexington, Massachusetts helped start a Divorced Kids group, a pioneer attempt at self-help. They meet weekly to vent feelings, give one another moral support, bring in speakers and try to deal with the problems a divorce can bring to children.

A World of Change

They talk about adjusting to a single-parent home, their parents' dating and new step-parents — the world of change that occurs when a marriage breaks apart. Older people who were children when their parents were divorced have called Lexington High to get information from the group to help resolve feelings that have lingered into adulthood.

We are saddened when we think of the grief, pain, heartache and hardship that have befallen so many people, both adults and children. What is more, family circles and friends also have been affected by broken marriages.

Surely, it grieves our Heavenly Father to behold the unhappiness and pain of so many people resulting from a violation of the marriage covenant that He has ordained. It behooves people everywhere to bestir themselves anew; to acknowledge and preserve the sanctity, wholesomeness and beauty of marriage and the family institution, as intended by its Author, Almighty God.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Sold for a Debt

Dear Girls and Boys,

This story is one of the parables Jesus told about forgiveness. It also tells about a woman, her husband and children who were to be sold to pay a debt. In the Old Testament there are references of people sold for silver and the poor for a pair of shoes. But this parable in the writings by Matthew mentions a wife.

In this parable Jesus said the kingdom of heaven was likened to a certain king who checked his servants. One servant was brought to the king who owed him ten thousand talents. Some have reckoned this to be ten million dollars, others, if it were silver it would amount to fifty-two million. It was a very large sum of money. The servant did not pay this debt so his lord commanded him to be sold along with his wife and children and all that he had so payment could be made. But the servant fell down and worshipped him saying, "Lord have patience with me and I will pay thee all." The lord was moved with compassion and forgave the debt.

This same servant soon forgot and went out and found a fellow-servant who owed him a very small debt, thought to be about forty-four dollars or an hundred pence. He took him by the throat and said, "Pay me that thou owest." The fellow-servant fell down at his feet and said, "Have patience with me and I will pay all I owe thee." But the other servant would not, and cast him in prison until he could pay the debt.

When his fellow-servants saw what was done, they were sorry and told their lord. The lord called the servant to him and said, "O thou wicked servant. I forgave you all that debt because you desired it. Now should you not have had compassion on your fellow-servant as I had pity on you?" The Lord was angry with him and delivered him to the tormentors until he could pay all he owed.

Jesus ended this parable saying, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." (Matthew 18:23, 35)

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Giovannonnes Celebrate Sixty Second Anniversary

Brother Dominic and Sister Marietta Giovannone recently had a surprise celebration with their children,

grandchildren and great grandchildren. They arrived in Warren, Ohio from their home in Vero Beach, Florida on June 11, 1979. They are spending six weeks visiting some Branches and Missions and many relatives.

Brother and Sister Giovannone were married in Niles, Ohio on May 26, 1917. They are the parents of 11 children, five of whom are living: Anthony, Frank, James, Jerry and Betty Alessio. They have 30 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

They were both baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 22, 1922. Brother Dominic was ordained an Elder in 1924 and holds the office of an Evangelist. He truly enjoys telling others of the Gospel Restored. Even though he is now 83 years old, his testimony is given at every opportunity. He has a great testimony to give on the many times God has spared his life, and he has brought the Gospel to many families who are now enjoying the blessings of God.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless Brother Dominic and Sister Marietta the remainder of their days.

COMMEMORATION: 150 Years of the Restoration

On Saturday, May 12, the Ohio Area M.B.A. commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, with a program entitled "The Sesquicentennial of the Restoration." Using songs, poems, and readings to depict the events which transpired in 1829 and following, representatives from most of the Locals of the Area participated. There were also many others who came from the Missions and Branches of the District to watch and join in the commemoration in Erie.

An article in the Erie newspaper, concerning the anniversary and the program brought three visitors to the gathering.

The evening was started with some community singing led by Brother Wayne Martorana, Area President. Many Latter day hymns were sung and prayer was then offered by Brother Delbert Lockwood, Chaplain of the Area.

After a few comments by Brother Wayne, the program was begun with a description of the ancient Church in the times of the Apostles and the hymn, "The Church Which Jesus Christ Set Up" was sung. Prophecies of the "falling away" were recited and a description of the Apostasy and Reformation was given followed by Charles Wesley's, "Happy The Souls That First Believed." The Era of the Restoration was introduced and readings from Oliver Cowdery's letters described the first vision of Joseph Smith.

The program continued with Oliver Cowdery's words relating that grand and momentous day when a Messenger of God said, "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer this priesthood and this authority, which shall remain upon the earth, that the sons of Levi may yet offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness."

Other hymns were sung, including a solo by Sister Arlene Holan and poems were read from various time

periods throughout the 150 years. The closing songs of the program represented our future expectations of the Church and the work of God (both were written very recently): "These Are The Latter Days" and, "Sing Me The Songs of Zion, Saints."

A few concluding remarks by Brother Wayne and Brother Joseph Calabrese, President of the District, and prayer by Brother Russ Martorana brought the commemoration meeting to a close. However, the Erie Saints had refreshments and everyone continued to fellowship afterwards.

The news article clearly stated our belief in the Restoration and our commission and authority as Christ's Church. As was expressed Saturday evening, we continually thank God for His rich mercies in restoring His Son's Church, Priesthood and pure teachings, and allowing us to worship Him in spirit and truth: Praise God.

An Experience in Seeking

Who perceives to know the mind of God? Is it not written that only God knoweth the time of His coming? There are those who will seek to know the mysteries of God, and it is well to do this; for in seeking are not knowledge and understanding increased? And is this not the will of God that knowledge shall be increased in the latter days?

I have been compelled by the spirit to investigate the time of the coming of the Peaceful Reign. I have done so in all diligence and with great zealously, forsaking all else to that end. I have discovered in this search many things, for which I thank God.

Wise and learned men shall be made foolish. I do not desire to become foolish before the Lord, to be found seeking and not preparing. The meek and unlearned man shall prepare for that which he believes is yet to come, based solely on faith, that He will surely come at a time of His own choosing. Is it not true that men have said, "The end is here"—"The Lord comes today." And have these men not been made as foolish clowns in the eyes of men, and because of the false revealings have not many been brought into disbelief? The will of God and His purposes shall be at His convenience, amen.

Because of the type of person I am, the Lord, I believe, has given me this task that I may find my way, for I have been lost. Is it more important for a man to know that He comes or to know the day of His coming? The wisdom of the Lord is in this. Knowing not the day of His coming, shall we prepare immediately to be ready to receive Him at any hour of any day? Is this not the covenant we made?

I have sought the day of the coming of the Lord and found it not. But, in seeking I have drawn closer to God and He closer to me. Greater is that which is found and not sought, than that which is sought and not found.

Jerry M. Rao
Roscoe Branch

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

The Resurrection is Now

Let all the voices of God's creation be raised to praise His holy name for we are the work of the powerful and Almighty Lord. Man being the greatest of God's natural creation has been given a living soul to dwell within a body of clay. This living soul maintains life within the natural body as we know it. When the time comes that the soul leaves the mortal body, temporal death occurs. Yet the soul lives on for eternity. Thus we see that God in His infinite wisdom has created this natural universe, placed man within His creation, given man dominion over all this perfect creation of God and by our first parents, Adam and Eve, we have received the knowledge of God, good and evil. Therefore by our actions in this natural life, we, who have dominion over all things and a free will to act according to our own desires, determine our eternal destiny.

Because Adam and Eve yielded to the temptation of evil in eating of the tree of knowledge a curse has come upon all mortal flesh. Though we know good from evil, our flesh is prone to commit sin because the pleasure of sin satisfies our carnal and sensual nature. Thus we live naturally, we are dead spiritually because of the lust of the flesh yielding to the pleasure of sin and the committing of sin brings forth spiritual death in the presence of God.

So in the fullness of time God came in the likeness of sinful flesh that he might be victorious over the power of sin and death. The demands of God's justice brought forth by transgression of the law of God (which law is contained within the conscience of all human souls of accountable age) is satisfied eternally by the perfect and just sacrifice — Jesus Christ. Jesus having no sin came into this mortal world that He would willingly fulfill all that the Father in Heaven would require for mankind's salvation.

We are eternally indebted that the Lord not only called us, but also touched our hearts with His spirit which kindled the desire within us to seek Him out. By our accepting the calling of God unto repentance and baptism the bands of spiritual death, brought forth by Adam and Eve's transgression, are broken by Jesus Christ. When we are immersed into the liquid grave, we are buried in the likeness of Christ's death, notwithstanding we are raised in the likeness of His resurrection. Though we may only appear wet to the natural eye, yet to the spiritual eye of faith we have received a remission of sins by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Then by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost our soul is resurrected by the quickening power of God's spirit back into the presence of the Father. Oh the joy that fills the heart, such as we have never experienced or can describe with mortal tongue, when the Holy Ghost resurrects our soul! We have received that wedding garment of spotlessness and purity to cover the nakedness of our soul at our marriage covenant unto God. This freely given by our Lord Jesus Christ as a result of our faith in Him. Now we walk as new creatures in Christ with the written word of God as our guide in life through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost leading, guiding, directing and showing us things to come. Let us pay this debt of love unto God for this beautiful gift of salvation by the dedication of

our lives to the life of Jesus Christ. Let us walk as He walked rejoicing in the cross of Christ knowing that all gifts and spiritual blessings are at Calvary, even life eternal.

Love in Christ Jesus,
The Glassport Branch

Blessings and Baptism at Lorain

On Sunday, April 29, 1979, Brother Frank Calabrese baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ Sister Yolanda Louise Gonzales of Waco, Texas. She was confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Sister Yolanda is the sister-in-law of Sister Rose Palacios. May God richly bless our new Sister in her desire to serve Him.

Also on Sunday, April 29, 1979, the following children were blessed:

Marc Edward Gonzales by Brother Frank Altomare, and

Steven Everett Gonzales by Brother Frank Calabrese.

On July 1, 1979, the Lorain, Ohio Branch had a beautiful service, with the speaking of tongues, the interpretation and the word of the Lord. It was a "mini-conference", with many visitors from other parts of the vineyard.

Brother Richard Paul Portnick, a man of Jewish descent, asked for his baptism. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Editor's Note: Photo and article on Brother Portnick's baptism will follow in September issue.

Reinstatement at Windsor

Sister Marylene Findlay was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ by baptism on April 29, 1979. She was baptized by Brother Bob Stanek and confirmed by Brother Don Collison.

Visitors at Cleveland, Branch No. 1

May 20, 1979 was a beautiful day at the Cleveland Branch as we rejoiced in seeing Brother August and Sister Lena Perlioni, whom we have greatly missed since their move to Arizona. Brother Emmett and Sister Evelyn Dale, formerly from Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania and now residing in San Carlos, Arizona, were also visiting with us. Brother Emmett had always wanted to work with the Indians, and now, thank God, he has the opportunity.

Brother Emmett opened the service by speaking about the Peaceful Reign, and Brother August followed on the same theme. Brother August stated that wherever we go in the Lord's vineyard, we find a Brother and a friend. He told how the Lord revealed to him when he was contemplating his move to Arizona that everything would be alright. How great the Lord is to give us the blessings and the assurance that we so often need.

Brother Rocco Biscotti spoke of the Red Man and what the future will mean to them. He also spoke of climbing Jacob's ladder when there will be no more affliction or pain. We trust in the Lord, and He will provide for us, even though we be few in number.

The presence of the Lord was greatly felt during the anointing of the afflicted. We pray that our Brothers and Sisters will come again, as our hearts rejoice when we have visiting Saints, since we are so few in number.

Pray for our little Branch and the elderly. Also, please remember Brother Mario Milano, who is now in Italy doing the Lord's work. May God bless everyone in our prayer.

Sister Margaret Abbot
Branch Editor

Baptism at Imperial Branch

The Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch has been blessed with two baptisms within the last six months. Sister Norma Drake asked for her baptism on December 3, 1978. She is the daughter of Brother George and Sister Martha Ondrasik. Sister Norma was baptized by Brother Robert Buffington and confirmed by her father.

We returned to the waters of baptism on April 1, 1979. Sister Rebecca Buffington, the daughter of Brother Robert and Sister Arlene Buffington, was baptized by her father and confirmed by her grandfather, Brother James Moore, Sr.

It is truly a blessing to us all to see the children of our Brothers and Sisters render obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Visitors at McKees Rocks Branch

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. On Wednesday, April 18, 1979, Brothers Frank Ciotti and Barry Mazzeo were in our midst at the McKees Rocks Branch for the evening meeting. Both were happy to be home, as it were, and we were happy to listen to the words of life. May God bless His Church in these the latter days with showers of blessings and His Glory, from East to West and from North to South, even as He will, is our prayer.

McKees Rocks Branch Editor

Ordinations and Blessings at Glassport Branch

On April 15, Easter Sunday, the members of the Glassport Branch rejoiced, as two young Brothers were ordained. Brother Edward Donkin was set apart to be a Teacher, and Brother Keith Donkin was set apart to be a Deacon.

Brother V. J. Lovalvo, who was in our midst for the entire day, washed Brother Edward's feet, and Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr. washed Brother Keith's feet. Brother Anthony Ensana ordained Brother Edward, and Brother John Ali ordained Brother Keith.

We enjoyed a beautiful day in the worship of God, with many visitors from throughout The Church. The presence of the spirit of God confirming the calling of these Brothers filled our hearts with joy.

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During the course of our afternoon meeting on April 29, the Priesthood called for those who wanted hands laid

on for strength and healing. Four members came forward, and the ordinance was administered to each. After this was completed, another member of the congregation, who was unable to come forward because of her condition, requested anointing. The Priesthood then proceeded back to the pew where she was sitting and anointed her. A blessing was felt by all in this anointing.

Brother Alfred Nolfi related later in the meeting that as he turned to see the Brothers walking back to the pew to anoint the Sister, he no longer saw the Brothers, but he saw three angels.

We praise God for His mercy and blessings unto His children. We are made to exclaim, "The visions and blessings of old are returning; the angels are coming to visit the earth."

Ordination in Herndon, Virginia

Sunday, May 13 was a beautiful day, as all in attendance had gathered together to witness the ordination of Brother Paul Carr into the Ministry. We had visitors from Hopelawn, New Jersey and various Pennsylvania Branches.

Following community singing, the morning meeting was opened by Brother Walter Cihomsky, who was recently ordained into the Ministry. He spoke inspiring words on the spiritual ladder and how we should be humble, that we might become a child of the King. Beautiful and inspiring words were heard as the many Elders spoke to us during the course of the day.

Brother Paul Carr's feet were washed by his father, Brother Jesse Carr, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Perri. A wonderful spirit was felt. After Brother Paul was ordained, he stood and gave his testimony, asking for the prayers of the Brothers and Sisters.

Brother Milford Eutsey then spoke, reminding us that we should love one another. Also, The Church has a great responsibility, and we must be careful how we walk. We have a hope and expectations in The Church.

Brother Joseph Perri then spoke to us on the necessity of prayer and that we are not of this world. God wants to lift us up. Brother Mike Hildenbrand then spoke of how important it is for the Saints to pray for the Ministry.

Our prayers are that the Lord will bless our new Elder as he dedicates himself to do God's work.

Sister Esther Andrews
Editor

Ordinations and Baptisms at Sterling Heights

Sunday, June 3 was a wonderful, wonderful day at the Sterling Heights Branch. Many beautiful things happened. An Elder was ordained, the first one in this Branch; a Teacher was ordained; and two new converts were baptized and confirmed, one from this Branch and one from Branch No. 3.

The rostrum was filled with visiting Elders, and the church building was filled to capacity, as we sang many songs of praise. Brother Louis Vitto welcomed all

present and said that today is reminiscent of our dedication four years ago.

A trio from Branch No. 1 sang "Jesus Use Me," and Brother Tony Lovalvo offered the opening prayer. Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened the service, reading from the Minister's Manual. He then told of the serious illness of Brother San DiFalco when he was a little child, how the doctors said if he lived, it would be a miracle. His parents did not give up hope; they relied on prayer to save him. God answered their prayers, and Brother Sam was healed and has been used by God in many ways.

Brother Nick continued, saying that when a minister is ordained in The Church of Jesus Christ, it is the calling of God, and we want to do the will of God in all our doings. A love for all humanity is one of the greatest attributes for a new Minister. Knowledge does not come automatically; it must be desired and sought after. God is calling younger men into the Ministry today, as many are growing older and have to be replaced. We must continue to pray that God will give us more young men to promulgate the Gospel. The Elders must constantly pray that God will inspire them, for inspiration touches the heart. True dedication comes from the direction of God. Brother Nick told of the many dreams and revelations prior to selecting Brother Sam as an Elder.

Brother John Buffa washed Brother Sam's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Gorie Ciaravino. Brother Sam embraced all the Elders and then walked down and embraced his mother, Sister Raffaella and his wife, Sister Sarah. Many tears were shed by the members, as this scene was beautiful and very touching.

Brother Louis Vitto told of a dream where Brother Sam was seen sitting on the right side of the rostrum and Brother Louis Visconti on the left.

Brother Louis Visconti was then ordained a Teacher. His feet were washed by Brother Norman Campitelle, and he was ordained by Brother Paul Whitton. Once again, many tears were shed as Brother Louis embraced the Elders, his mother, Sister Rose Gerry and his wife, Sister Grace. Brother Nick told Brother Louis that patience is a necessary requirement and that he was facing a future where he had to be a peacemaker. We sang "God Is So Good", and Brother John Impastato stood and cried out, "The Lord is calling; there is someone here He is calling today."

Brother Louis Vitto said the word "responsibility" should be embedded in the minds of all of us today, Elders and members alike. He then asked if there was one more who would like to dedicate their life to Christ. We sang "I Surrender All" and were dismissed with prayer by Brother Don Collison.

On Sunday afternoon, Fred Jenkinson called Brother John Buffa and said he would like to be baptized. He told Brother John that he felt the spirit upon him as Brother John prayed while washing Brother Sam's feet that morning, but that he did not know what to do about it. He went home, but the spirit continued to work with him and gave him no rest. He cried and prayed and felt very repentant. This went on for some time, and he asked his wife, Sister Nancy, what he should do. She said, "Call and ask for your baptism." He was baptized late in the afternoon by Brother John Buffa.

We went back to the church, and many members

from other Branches met with us. Brother Spencer offered prayer. We sang "Ready To Go," and Sister Joanne Coppa, who asked for her baptism at Branch No. 3 that morning, was confirmed by Brother Silverio Coppa. Brother Fred Jenkinson was confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto. Each of the two converts gave their testimony, thanking God for calling them into the Gospel. Brother Fred told of how his son was born handicapped. About a year ago, this child was seriously ill and in the hospital. Brother Fred asked God to heal him and promised that if the child was healed, he would serve Him. He kept that promise today. He said that he was very grateful for the privilege of working with Brother Louis Vitto and Brother Louis Visconti over the years. Also, he said that had it not been for his handicapped son, Jeremy, he would never have attended this church. Little Jeremy, without realizing it, is being used by God. He has become very precious to us all in this Branch.

During the morning meeting, Lori Champine, daughter of Brother Gary and Sister Judy, predicted that Fred would call for his baptism today and even named the hour. Chrissie Visconti named the person in advance who would wash Brother Louis' feet.

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On May 6, Sister Mary Armes was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino. About 7:00 P.M., Brother Louis Vitto called Brother John and told him Mary Armes had called him and said she wanted to be baptized at once. Brother John then related his dream of the evening before. He was sitting in his home, reading the scriptures, when Mary Armes came to him crying. She said, "Brother John, I can't take this any longer; I just can't. Please help me!" Brother John noticed Mary was wearing a blue dress and he awoke. The next morning at Sunday School, Mary was wearing the dress Brother John had seen in his dream.

Last winter, Sister Mary stayed in Brother Louis' home with his children while he and Sister Shirley went on vacation. She said God began working with her then.

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Sunday, June 24 was another beautiful day at our Branch, where the spirit of God was made manifest throughout the day. The day was perfect, filled with sunshine, but slightly cool.

We sang "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," and then the hymn was sung again in Italian. Brother Louis Vitto told of how the Brothers and Sisters used to sing all the old hymns in Italian between the services on Sunday.

Brother Louis congratulated Laurie Whitton, who had asked for her baptism at the GMBA Campout but wanted to be baptized here by her father, Brother Paul. He also congratulated Jim DiFalco, who had requested baptism during the week. He had been out of The Church for many years and now wanted to rededicate his life.

Our service was opened in prayer by Brother Sam DiFalco, and Brother John Buffa spoke from *Luke 19:1-5* concerning Zacchaeus climbing a tree to see Christ as He passed by and how Christ called to him. All the things Christ did when He was on earth were done for a purpose. Those in The Church today who are not serving God are likened unto the lame and the blind. When

we are baptized, we feel the spirit of God upon us. The Elders are casting forth their nets, hoping to bring those who have not yet accepted Christ, into the Gospel.

Brother John told of how Christ forgave the adulteress, telling her to go and sin no more. He admonished the people to climb the tree of life, spiritually speaking, that they might see Christ and that their names will be written down in the Book of God. He said he did not speak to us as Brother John Buffa, but under the authority of Jesus Christ. He asked that we all prepare for the future as the ant so industriously works and prepares during the summer months for the ravages of winter ahead. Where there is life, there is hope. Heaven and earth may pass away, but the word of God will never die.

Brother Steve Champine sang "Lay Me Down," a hymn that had been requested.

Brother Paul Whitton said we want the light to shine upon us so others might see. He referred to Brother John's sermon, where Zacchaeus, a sinner, was converted because of his desire to see Christ. It is our responsibility to pray for the lost, to try to get them into the fold of God. Those who have not heeded the word of God must make a great effort to repent and be baptized if they want to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. We want to develop our own relationship with God, to talk and commune with Him first hand, not to rely on what others might tell us. We have all been sinners at one time, and it has been through our desire to see God that we have been made whole. When our heart is right with God, there is no doubt when we call upon His name, when we understand and hear Him as He talks to us, that we will be willing to do His will. We must keep our minds open for communication. We do not know the time or place when Christ will return; we must be ready to meet Him. We must make our covenant with Christ while there is yet time. We do not want to hear Him say on that last day, "I know you not." We must listen and heed when He knocks on the door of our heart.

We sang "Come and Dine," and the meeting was left open for testimony. Jeanne Johnson stood and asked for her baptism. Sister Arlene Whitton related a dream where she was approached by an adoption agency to take a baby. She consented, and when they came with the child, it was a toddler. They told her to take good care of this little girl; she is precious. Sister Arlene said she felt she could no longer deny her daughter Laurie her baptism.

Brother Louis Vitto said that while he was studying the scriptures on Saturday evening, Jeanne Johnson's face came before him, and he felt that she would ask for her baptism on Sunday. When he saw her in Church today, he had the same feeling. He said that when the voice of God calls us, it is not a loud voice; it is a still, quiet voice, and we must recognize it when we hear it. We must have a listening ear and hear and understand when He talks to us. It is only through the spirit that we will be made to understand.

We sang "Shall We Gather at the River" and were dismissed with prayer by Brother Paul Whitton.

We gathered at the waters in the evening to witness the baptisms. Laurie was baptized by her father, Brother Paul Whitton; Jeanne was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto; and Jim DiFalco was baptized by his brother, Brother Sam. We came back to the Church for the con-

firmations. There was a good representation from all the Branches, including Brother Biscotti from Cleveland, Ohio.

The Elders then formed a circle around the new converts, and a special prayer was said for them. Sister Laurie Whitton was confirmed by Brother Carl Frammolino; Sister Jeanne Johnson by Brother John Buffa; and Brother Jim DiFalco by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. Brother Louis Vitto then asked each of the converts to give their testimonies.

Sister Jeanne told of how she looked forward to coming to Church on Sunday, how she found peace and was able to relax. She felt that if she prayed with the Saints, her husband, who has cancer, would be healed. She told of how her heart pounded during the service, and then she knew this would be her day. Sister Laurie said it had been a long two weeks since she asked for her baptism at the campout, and she thanked God that her parents had given their permission. Brother Jim DiFalco said he had joined The Church a long time ago but had drifted away, and it was good to be back.

Brother Biscotti told us how glad he was to be with us on this occasion and that he liked the way things were done in this Branch. He advised the three converts on the things of the Lord. He told them their life will now be different than it was before, and if they had any bad habits, they must cleanse themselves.

All of those who were at the GMBA Campout stood and sang the theme song, "He's Everything to Me."

Brother Joseph Milantoni spoke a few words about the GMBA Campout, and he told of what a wonderful feeling he had today as he watched Brother Paul Whitton baptize his daughter and how beautiful it was. He said the young people today have a much further reach in life than their parents had, and that they are going to let the world know they are a child of Christ. Our message to the world is the richest and most vivid, and we must set our goals as high as we can. With God's help, we will achieve the highest awards.

We sang "Amazing Grace" and were dismissed with prayer by Brother Gorie Ciaravino. A social hour with refreshments was held in the basement for the new converts.

Sister Hazel E. Zoltek,
Branch Editor

Ordination and Visitors at the Bronx Branch

On Sunday, April 15, 1979, Brother Matthew Rogolino, President of the Atlantic Coast District, visited the Bronx Branch. During the service, he brought forth the message that an office in The Church should not be taken lightly. It is the most precious possession that you can obtain. God will bless you if you perform your duties faithfully in whatever office you hold.

The Sunday School children sang "No Wonder They Call Him Wonderful" and "Say Will You Be Ready When Jesus Comes."

Brother James Suska was then ordained into the office of Deacon. His feet were washed by Brother Alex

Prudenti, and he was ordained by Brother Matthew Rogolino.

It was a very wonderful service, and everyone felt the blessings of God. May the Lord bless our Brother Jim in his new office.

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On Tuesday, April 17, 1979, the Bronx Branch held a special meeting. Brother John Azzinaro from the San Fernando Valley Branch in California came to visit us. He was originally from our area. Many members from Brooklyn, Edison and Freehold attended this meeting.

Brother John related many experiences he had of his baptism and the purchasing of the Bronx building many years ago. He was very happy to see many old faces and new ones too.

He read from the *Bible*, *Matthew 25:14-18*. He brought out that we should not hide our talent but should be like the ones who multiplied their talents. Brother John expressed the importance of exercising our spiritual soul continually. We should read the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* as often as possible so that we do not become stale. We should watch and pray continually, seeking God's guidance and inspiration in all our doings.

Brother Rocco Ensana continued by saying that we must all be in tune with one accord. It does not matter what office we hold. We must all search our lives to see if we have hidden our talents. We should all spread the Gospel to the world and must give our best to the Master at all times.

Brother Dominick Rose spoke, reminding us that it is not an easy road, but the Saviour walks beside us. We should always be prepared, so when God calls us, we will be ready.

We had a wonderful meeting and were thankful for the opportunity to see Brother John in our midst again after many years. We truly thank God for the spiritual love and blessings that are felt in our midst when we gather in His name, whatever the occasion. The hymn that was sung, "Rejoice, Ye Saints of Latter Days," expresses our feelings of joy to be part of the family of God.

Bronx Branch Editor

Monongahela Branch Receives a Day of Blessings

On April 29, 1979, the Brothers, Sisters and friends of the Monongahela Branch received a full day of God's blessings. Brother Fred Olexa and his family from the Roscoe Branch visited with us. Brother Richard Scaglione offered the opening prayer. A trio, consisting of Brothers Robert Nicklow, Jr., Jonathan Olexa and Ricky Scaglione, sang "Supper Time" as the opening hymn.

Brother Fred Olexa opened the morning service, thanking God for the privilege of visiting Monongahela. He spoke from *Alma*, Chapter 37 in the *Book of Mormon*, where Alma commands his son Helaman to continue keeping records. Brother Fred stated how Christ's life was an example to us of how we should live our lives and walk after His ways. But are we really willing to follow Him all the way? Brother Fred asked the question, "Are

we as a people in The Church becoming lax?" We are always willing to find faults with others, but we seem unable to see our own. We must realize that we cannot wait on the next generation to further The Church. We must further the Gospel NOW.

We must remember to keep the commands of God, for He has always prepared the way in the past. God commanded Lehi to go into the wilderness on faith and He would lead him. If God commanded us to go today, would we have the faith? The ball and director led Lehi and his family through the wilderness as God had said it would. He made salvation simple, and we have become lax. We must exercise our faith daily. We must not wait until we are afflicted for God to humble us and make us realize that we need Him. Brother Fred mentioned the Zoramites and how they only prayed to God on the Sabbath day and then never thought of Him until the next Sabbath. We must watch that we do not find ourselves doing the same thing. We must have Christ in our lives every day, so we grow and become strong spiritually. We must learn to resist temptations, and we can, by faith in Jesus Christ. We must counsel with the Lord, and if we exercise faith, God will use us as tools in His hands in the work of the Gospel.

Brother Richard Scaglione then made a few closing remarks, reading from *Alma* 37:45, "... for just as surely as this director did bring our fathers, by following its course, to the promised land, shall the words of Christ, if we follow their course, carry us beyond this vale of sorrow into a far better land of promise."

We closed the morning service by singing "O Zion, When I Think On Thee," and closing prayer was offered by Brother John Olexa.

The afternoon service was opened with a duet from Sisters Tamara Nicklow and Melissa Bright, "Jesus Is Passing By". Brother Richard Scaglione made a few opening remarks, stating that he likens us to the blind man before we came into The Church and that Christ has shown us the way.

Brother Scaglione then told us that Brother Matthew and Sister Bertha Lactash had made their wishes known to be reinstated into The Church. Sister Bertha was reinstated by Brother James Grazan, and Brother Fred Olexa reinstated Brother Matthew.

Many wonderful testimonies were given and hymns were sung throughout the remainder of the meeting. Truly a day of blessings and precious memories of our own conversion were felt by all.

Sister Robin Burns
Monongahela Branch Editor,

"What we think, or what we know, or what we believe, is, in the end, of little consequence. The only thing of consequence is what we DO." —John Ruskin

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

April Aileen to Eric and Dana Anderson of Greensburg, Pennsylvania;

Amber Renee to Bernard and Wanda Mutschler of Monongahela, Pennsylvania; and

Alicia to David and Eileen Nolfi of Glassport, Pennsylvania.

— WEDDINGS —

KIRTOS - LAVERIE

Mr. Anthony Joseph Kirtos, Jr. and Miss Bonnie Marie Laverie were united in marriage on Friday, June 29, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Donald Pandone, the bride's cousin, officiated at the wedding ceremony, and Sister Teresa Pandone presented musical selections.

The newlyweds will reside in Youngstown, Ohio.

ROSSI - GILES

Brother Darrell James Rossi and Miss Donna Lee Giles were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, July 14, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Brother Paul Palmieri officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by the soloist, Mr. Barry Richard, the organist, Sister Sharon Staley, and the pianist, Debbie Richards.

The newlyweds will reside in New Brighton, Pennsylvania.

● OBITUARIES ●

HANNAH MAY MAXWELL

Sister Hannah May Maxwell passed away on May 1, 1979. She was born on August 16, 1883 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 19, 1901.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Brother Paul Gehly officiated at the funeral services.

GLADYS WEATHERFORD

Gladys Weatherford, the mother of Sister Ruby Kinser of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed away from this life on June 1, 1979. She was born on September 13, 1902. Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Frank Calabrese officiated at the funeral services.

The GOSPEL NEWS

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DALLAS, TEXAS MISSION DEDICATES CHURCH BUILDING

About twenty-five Brothers, Sisters and friends, including newly-ordained Apostle Robert Watson and officers from the Arizona District, met on June 24, 1979 to dedicate the new Dallas, Texas church building for God's service.

The busy weekend began early Saturday morning with the arrival of the Brothers and Sisters from the Arizona District. By late afternoon, everyone had arrived: from the Red Lake Branch — Brother Bob and Sister Sarah Watson, Brother Chuck and Sister Sylvia Curry, and Brother Virgil Link; from the parent Branch, Phoenix — Brothers Barry Mazzeo, Presiding Elder, and Arthur and Mark Landrey; and from the Tucson Branch, Brother Richard T. Christman, Arizona District President.

The group met Saturday evening and enjoyed listening to Brother Watson speak on the topic of dedication, followed by Brother Mazzeo who spoke of the goodness of God.

Brother Christman opened the Sunday service, following beautiful solos, as Sister Sylvia Curry sang "Fill My Cup, Lord" and Brother Barry Mazzeo sang "He Touched Me". Brother Christman told the group that God picks busy people to do His work. He told the story about four busy men who contributed to the building of Solomon's temple — David, Solomon, Hiram, the King of Tyre, and Hiram, the widow's son. Brother Dick said that all four had different talents, and each contributed to the building of the temple in their own way. Likewise, the various talents of The Church reflect the face of God today.

Brother Chuck Curry followed, speaking about *Isaiah, Chapter 66*. He compared a church building with the members. Both, he said, were temples of God, but the members had a promise that they would be lifted up again.

Next, Brother Bob Watson rehearsed to us the efforts of the Saints of the Windsor, Ontario Branch when they built their building during World War II. He related how one Brother received a vision from God instructing him how to place the pews and lights into the building. We

were told how during the ensuing years, the church building served as a hospital and refuge, as well as a place to worship God.

The meeting was opened for testimony, and many gave thanks for the opportunity to meet in the new building and with each other. After Sacrament, Brother George Benyola, Elder of the Dallas Mission, said the newly acquired building was more than just a house — it was a home, he said, because the Saints are God's children.

The dedication service topped off six months of efforts to buy the building. Brother George first saw the building around the first of January, and he informed the District of the property. Before the purchase and dedication became a reality, Brother George appeared before the City of Allen's Property and Zoning Board once and the City Council three times. Twice, votes on the sale of the building to The Church were tied, with the mayor of the city voting both times to break the stalemate in favor of the Saints.

Brother George called twenty-two banks in search of a mortgage loan, but with no positive results. However, The General Church, the Arizona District and the Dallas members continually supported this effort, despite the difficulties. Within a few days, the Arizona District raised \$2,200 and sent it to the Dallas Mission; personal contributions from throughout The Church came in; and finally, the General Church acted under a new provision and bought the property with a loan to the Mission in the amount of \$12,000.

The Saints of the Dallas Mission remain grateful to the Arizona District, the individuals throughout the Church, and the government of the General Church for their financial and prayerful support which have made this memorable occasion possible for us.

We look forward to the use of our new building for the honor and glory of God and pray that within a short time, we may have another dedication — this time, a larger building to support the number of converts from this area.

We welcome everyone to visit us in the Dallas Mission. Our address is as follows:

301 East McDermott Drive
Allen, Texas 75002.

Through the Grace of God,
Brother Ralph Frammolino

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your thoughtfulness, for the beautiful cards you sent, for your visits (both at home and at the hospital), for the phone calls, flowers, and most of all, for the many prayers offered in my behalf during my recent illness and surgery.

I am feeling better each day and thank the Lord for taking care of me. May God bless you all.

Your Sister in Christ,
Louise Micale
Ft. Pierce Branch

IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. LOVALVO

QUESTION: What is the origin of the American Indian?

While many books have been written on the possible immigration of the American Indian, they merely give the opinion of the authors who are at variance with each other as to when and how they may have come to this Continent as well as South America. It would occupy much space to give even a synopsis of the different writers, so, I will abstain from doing so. I shall rather go to the source which was restored in these latter days for the answer to the above question, the Book of Mormon, with references from the Bible also.

It is written in the Bible (Gen. 49:22) that Joseph's (the son of Jacob) "branches" would run over the wall. In prophetic language, the wall was the great sea over which the posterity of Joseph would cross. When they would reach the land beyond the wall (or sea), they should be "hated, grieved, and shot at". But, God promised them that they would be blessed beyond description, and that their blessings would be greater, by far, than the blessings of Jacob's progenitors. (Gen. 49:26) History will bear me out that, the Seed of Joseph, by Bible records, is lost to the knowledge of men, but God promised them a land beyond the sea, and also a record of their own. (Read Ezekiel, 37th Chapter concerning "two sticks, one for Judah and one for Joseph). The "Stick" of Judah is a record of the dealings of the Lord with the Jewish people; but where is the history of God's dealing with the Seed of Joseph?

A "book" was predicted by the prophet Isaiah to come forth some day. (Isaiah 29th Chapter). It stated positively that it would be a "sealed" book which the "learned man" could not read because it was sealed, and the "unlearned man" could not read it because he was not learned.

In 1820, the Lord revealed to a young man (Joseph Smith) by the visitation of an Angel, that a record lay hidden in the earth not far from his home which contained the history of the Ancient American Indians. The Angel (who called himself Moroni) told the young lad that the American Indians were the descendants of the son of Jacob, (Joseph) who were brought to this land and to the shores of South America also by the hand of God.

In a few short years, the Angel Moroni delivered the plates upon which were inscribed the above history, to Joseph Smith who, by the gift and power of the Lord, translated the plates into the English language from the language in which they had been inscribed, the "Reformed Egyptian and Hebrew". The result of this translation was the Book of Mormon. The Book tells of the migration of a portion of the Seed (family) of Joseph to this continent. The migration was led by a man called Lehi and his family. Other families and people were recruited to join them to come to these shores. God commanded them to build a ship which was undertaken by one of the sons of Lehi, who was called Nephi. This young man was a great believer in God, and by his faith was able, with the help of others to construct a ship which brought them to the land of Promise, (America).

They eventually became two nations of people, the Nephites and the Lamanites, who were so named after the

sons of Lehi. The Lamanites continually warred against the Nephites, building up a hatred so great that eventually after 400 hundred years after Christ, the Nephites were almost totally destroyed on a hill called Cumorah. This is the same hill where Joseph Smith met the angel and was given the plates to translate in 1827.

The Book of Mormon also tells how Jesus Christ made His appearance on this land and established His Church as He had done in Jerusalem. He called Twelve men and gave them the same power and authority as He had given the Twelve Apostles in Jerusalem. However, in four hundred years, they dwindled in unbelief and were almost completely annihilated. (The Lamanites overcame the Nephites) Nevertheless, God spared them and their posterity is among us. (the American Indian)

The Book of Mormon also tells of the many great cities that were built by the ancient inhabitants, of the highways that were constructed, leading from one city to another; of the many pyramids built after the fashion of the Egyptian ones. Great was the culture among them until they forgot their God and went into forbidden paths. Archaeologists have discovered and unearthed so many of the above which has only given credence to the Book of Mormon and to the history of where the American Indians came from.

The blessings of God which are in store for the American Indians (Seed of Joseph) are indeed multiple in their scope and promise. They will, someday, arise and become a mighty people again; not as a warring nation, but as a people of the Almighty God who brought their ancestors to these continents by His Power. They shall be a wonderfully believing people who shall be used of the Lord to build a city called the "New Jerusalem" like unto the Jerusalem of old. Many Gentiles shall help them to build this city as well as many from the Tribe of Judah (the Jews) who shall also believe in Christ. Thus shall the word of God be fulfilled which says, "...for out of Zion (the Church) shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

While many more writers shall seek to advance theories as to how and where the American Indian came from, let the seeker of truth read the Book of Mormon with true sincerity of heart and he shall receive the answer from the Lord Himself. The following is a quotation from the Book of Mormon, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." (Moroni 10:4)

DeMercurio's Return From Nigeria

Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, along with their sons Nephi, Jr. and Jared, returned from Nigeria on July 26, 1979 after spending two years among our Saints in Nigeria and Ghana. They will be home for five months and are tentatively scheduled to return to Nigeria in December, 1979. We thank God for their safe return to the United States and pray that God will bless and direct them in all their future endeavors for The Church.

Greetings,

If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, the love of God is the fulfillment of all wisdom, as love cannot be overstated. It is complete, wholesome and the father-mother of all that is good. God is LOVE.

The first Italian that heard the Restored Gospel and saw the behavior of the people of God exclaimed, "Are these angels, or are these men? Can this be true? They are full of love." He (Brother Molinatto of Glassport, Pennsylvania) was totally immersed in a spirit of awe.

When Cornelius saw and heard Peter, he bowed down in reverence, and often we hear the usual remarks by most of us. It was the love of God that brought me to Christ. I personally was persuaded that these people truly had the love of God in their heart. I knew nothing of the *Bible* or the *Book of Mormon*, but I knew that I was a sinner. Christ is a Saviour, and these people of The Church of Jesus Christ were the people of God.

It was not a show; it was real as I felt it in my life.

Love will overcome all things and will convince the world that God is real, because His people are real and not another religion. We are the children of day. Let us shine for Christ, and He will shine in us, as we are His and He is ours, ALL BECAUSE OF LOVE.

The love of God prolongs our days on the earth and casts away all fear. The righteous shall never be afraid. They shall not be moved, because they know their strength comes from the Lord.

"My sheep know my voice," said Jesus. "A stranger they will not follow."

Brother Thurman Furnier was lecturing the Indians of Muncey, Canada for several weeks. He once said to me, "Marco, they never say anything to me. Ask them and see if they like what I say." "Why don't you ask them?" I said. He did, but no one said a thing. I felt sorry for Brother Thurman, because he truly tried faithfully to declare the downfall of every nation and people that turned away from God. I was presiding over them at this time and knew that the poor people had very little interest in history.

Elizabeth Muskellunge stood up after a long, agonizing pause. "Why not tell us a little of the love of God and Jesus Christ. We know Him. What do we know about those Romans? Nothing, but we know Jesus. He is the love of God to us, but those Romans we know not." That was the end of the lectures and the return to the love of God.

It's time to return to the teaching and practicing of the love of God. All else is of little profit and often is a distraction to us from the real thing.

Let us begin to practice this precious pearl of great price in our home with our wife, husband and children, and then with our neighbors and all within reach. It is time, it is in need now and very appropriate above any other thing. I love the thought that often blesses my soul and makes me go to the limit of my strength.

I AM A CHILD OF GOD. Oh, what a blessed thought, what a strength do I receive from this.

The first words that drew my attention to the reality of a true purpose were spoken by Brother John Penn on April 6, 1933 at the Detroit Conference. "But as many as

received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Praises to God, we have believed, and because we believed, we have received, and therefore we feel this in our soul. We are the children of God and heirs to the kingdom of righteousness with and through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

I am as well as can be expected. I have learned to live a day at a time and do learn to apply wisdom to my heart.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Ever in Christ,
Brother Marco Randy

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank each of you for helping us celebrate our marriage. Every couple's wedding is special to them. But ours was more than we could have hoped for. We were once again blessed by God who allowed us the privilege to have the Saints of The Church of Jesus Christ present.

What an honor and a blessing for us. We will always treasure our special wedding that was shared by all. We would especially like to thank those who were responsible in the planning of the beautiful reception.

Thank you all again, and may God bless every one of you!

Dane & Lisa Obradovich

THE EXAMPLE

In the upper room in one sweet accord,
Jesus gave His blessing, the blessing of the Lord,
He girded Himself with a towel and humility,
And said, "Be like the Master, do this as you see."
He then knelt to wash the feet of His beloved,
He showed them the way, sanctioned from above.
"Of you who'd be the leader, or greater, or the best,
Let him first be the servant and the helper of the rest."
He said, "A new commandment is yours to fulfill,
This you should do, to keep the Father's will."
And then He came to Peter and knelt before his face,
But Peter cried, "Oh no, Lord, something is out of place."
"Oh Peter, there's a purpose, for it must needs be,
For if you do not do this, you have no part with Me."

Steve Champine
Sterling Heights Branch



VENTURAS CELEBRATE 64th ANNIVERSARY

Brother Albert and Sister Carmella Ventura celebrated 64 years of marriage on July 29, 1979. They were married on July 29, 1915 in Rionero Sannetico, Italy.

Brother Albert came to America to look for work. He met the Gospel through Brother Rocco Biscotti and Brother Gerome. Brother Albert has related many times how he was a drunkard and didn't care about any religion until he met the Gospel. He then sent for Sister Carmella and his daughter, Sister Erma Milano.

Brother Albert was baptized on April 10, 1925, and Sister Carmella was baptized on May 27, 1928. Even at times when affliction is upon them, they are always ready to do the Lord's will. Brother Albert and Sister Carmella are both 84 years of age. Brother Ventura is still a very active Deacon and Teacher at the Cleveland Branch.

We of the Cleveland Branch feel greatly honored to have our elderly Brother and Sister still with us. May the Lord grant them many more years of happiness together. We wish to congratulate them on the many years of marriage and the many years of service to the Lord. God bless them is our prayer!



THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 1159
Window Rock, Ariz. 86515

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
10090 Aspen Lane
Windsor, Ontario
Canada N8R 2B8

PENNSYLVANIA
Alvin Gehly
R.D. 1
Fredonia, Pa. 16124

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

SEPTEMBER AND SCHOOL

"It has been said that an education is something a person gets for himself, not that which someone else gives or does to him. . . Schools should be places where people go to find out the things they want to find out and develop the skill they want to develop. . ."

The summer months are gone, and September is here to usher in the return to school. Going to school is an important and necessary part of a person's life, beginning in early childhood, continuing through youth and on into adulthood.

Schools are and should be a resource from which children and young people can take what they need and want to carry on the business of their own education. A few of these needs are as follows: one, a greater understanding of the world around them; two, a greater development of themselves; three, a chance to find their work or way in which they may use their own tastes and talents to grapple with the real problems of the world around them and to serve the cause of humanity.

Our society seems to ask our schools mainly to do three things for our children and young people: one, pass on the traditions and higher values of our own culture; two, acquaint them with the world in which they live; three, prepare them for employment and, if possible, success. Children need and deserve an opportunity to be useful in society. There are many roads to education, and each learner is and should be free to choose, to find, to make his own.

Learning As Growth

Schools are not only a resource from which the student or learner collects facts or ideas. Teachers will readily agree that the school also fosters learning as a kind of growing, a moving and expanding of the person into the world around him. This surely must also be obvious to parents, friends of children or anyone who cares about education.

The rewards of a good education are many. The educated person is better prepared to secure gainful employment in the particular field of endeavor he may choose to pursue. He is in a position to make wiser and more important decisions. With advanced training or specialized talents, he is ready to accept and experience responsibilities and challenges.

Additional Rewards

Additional rewards also await those who are willing to apply their learning and talents, as well as time and labor, in whatever degree, to the service of God and of others.

The Missionary Benevolent Association, The Ladies Uplift Circle and Sunday School as auxiliary units of The Church are useful and wholesome organizations. They too welcome the participation of those who may be interested and provide opportunities for the application, in some degree, of the training and skills that have been acquired in school.

Parents have an obligation to stimulate the thinking of their children and encourage them as they go to school. Teachers are urged to pursue with diligence, tact and patience their task of tutoring the student. And for the students: "... To be learned is good if they hearken to the counsels of God—" (*Book of Mormon, II Nephi 9:29*)

(REPRINT)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

A Story About Widows

Dear Girls and Boys,

There are many references of widows in the Old and New Testaments. In Exodus there is a warning not to afflict the widow; Isaiah tells the people to plead for the widow; Zechariah states to comfort the widow. In Matthew's writings he speaks a woe on those who devour widows' houses and in Acts we read the Grecians murmured because their widows were neglected. James states to visit the widows in their affliction.

An interesting story is told by Mark and Luke about a widow with two mites. Jesus was seated in the temple at Jerusalem near the treasury. He watched the many people who came by and cast their gifts into the treasury. Those who were rich cast in much. A poor widow entered and cast into the chest two mites which would be two cents. Jesus was touched by her sacrifice. He called his disciples to him and said, "Verily I say unto you that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury. For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." He praised her generosity.

Another interesting story about a widow is "the widow of Nain's son". This son was the first person Jesus raised from the dead. Jesus and his disciples went to the city called Nain. As they came to the gate of the city, "Behold there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother and she was a widow, and much people of the city were with her." Jesus had compassion on her and said, "Weep not." He came and touched the bier of her son and spoke to him, "Young man, I say unto thee, 'Arise'." The young man who had been dead sat up and began to speak. Jesus delivered him to his mother.

A great fear fell on all who saw this miracle. They glorified God saying, "A great prophet is risen up among us and that God had visited his people." This was rumored throughout all Judea and the regions about. What a wonderful day for this poor widow.

How many other stories can you find about widows?

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Brothers To Leave For Nigeria

Brothers Mike Hildenbrand and Joseph Perri are leaving for Nigeria on October 9, 1979. They will stay there for 44 days and afterwards, will travel to Ghana where they will stay for seven days. Our Brothers will be paying their own expenses. Let us all pray for them that the Lord will bless them spiritually and naturally.

M. B. A. Highlights

"PENNSYLVANIA AREA MBA CAMPOUT: UPLIFT, PLUS!"

"What a great weekend!" said many of those Brothers and Sisters on Sunday afternoon, August 5 as they departed from the Laurelville Mennonite Church camp grounds near Greensburg, Pa. Among the nearly 245 people registered at camp, we had (other than from the host area, Pennsylvania) representation from (in alphabetical order), the Atlantic Coast, Florida, Michigan-Ontario and Ohio Districts.

Camp opened Friday afternoon, and clear skies prevailed until Sunday. Many of the Saints arrived late Friday evening, including a "Michigan Convoy" which somehow had difficulties staying together, but finally made it to camp! We enjoyed the evening service, after which we gathered around a warm campfire to sing hymns.

Saturday morning after the chapel meeting, seminars were conducted, the topic of discussion being "Fishers of Men". The various age groups discussed how we, as members of The Church, can tell others of the Gospel through our testimony and our actions. It was stressed that we must KNOW OUR CHURCH and our faith and doctrine in order to express our beliefs to others.

In the afternoon, recreation was the main event and featured softball, tetherball, volleyball and basketball. There was excellent participation in all of these activities.

The Saturday evening meeting was time well spent in singing and beautiful testimonies. Among these testimonies were the exceptionally beautiful words of praise to the Lord by Sister Minnie DiPiero (celebrating 60 years in The Church), by a group of Brothers and Sisters from Vanderbilt, and last, but not least, by LuAnn Scaglione, who desired to have the letters S-I-S-T-E-R precede her name! She was baptized Sunday morning by her father, Brother Richard Scaglione, our GMBA Chaplain and long-time supporter of the Pennsylvania Area MBA. One of the Twelve Apostles of The Church, Brother Joseph Bittinger, laid hands on our new Sister to confirm upon her the gift of the Holy Ghost during the Sunday morning service.

And talk about a service! We had well over 300 in attendance in the small, but comfortable meeting hall. Brother Frank Morle, GMBA Vice President, opened the morning service, speaking about the good verses the bad side of "stubbornness". He first focused attention on the justifiable form of stubbornness of "refusing to go back into the world" from which Jesus Christ has delivered His Saints. He used the case of Sister Minnie DiPiero as an example of someone who was just plain stubborn for 60 years — she refused to accept anything other than the Restored Gospel.

Brother Morle then turned from the good side of stubbornness to focus attention on the less desirable form of being stubborn. He encouraged those who had a full understanding of the Gospel that their stubbornness would only hurt them. How true this is to many of us who "held out" when it came to signing our contract with the Lord! Brother Frank encouraged the people in that situation to look within themselves and reevaluate their personal relationship with God.

He was followed by Brother Dominic Moraco who read more about "good stubbornness" found in *Psalms* 119. Brother Dominic also related a touching experience in which his wife, Sister Connie, dreamed that our Lord Jesus visited their branch and showed to all the wounds and scars that He bears for the sins of all mankind.

Brother James King from Vanderbilt, Pa. touched on the subject of "peer pressure" as a tool of Satan which might embarrass many young people who would rather serve the Lord, but choose rather to be accepted by their so-called "friends". Brother Harold Burge from Erie, Pa. said that his "bad stubbornness" was melted away by the pure love of God among our people. He encouraged us to persevere (be stubborn) in our covenant with the God as did Joshua who stated, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Brother Richard Scaglione first gave thanks for the calling of his daughter into The Church and then told us that his grandmother saw his stubbornness and constantly reminded him about his responsibility to the Lord.

We were then very excited to hear the concluding remarks made by the President of The Church, Brother Dominic Thomas, who encouraged us to draw closer to the Lord, because the signs of the times are coming to pass and we all are going to need to be increasingly dependent on the Lord, as well as each other.

What a wonderful weekend indeed! All of us thank our members of the Pennsylvania Area MBA, including our Camp Director, Brother David Wayne DeLuca from Aliquippa, for a comfortable and most enjoyable camp.

And of course, thanks be unto our Lord Jesus Christ for so graciously taking some of His time to spend with us in the hills of Western Pennsylvania. Amen.

Brother Ryan Ross
Assistant GMBA Editor

District Conferences . . .

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Pennsylvania District Conference met on Saturday, August 18, 1979 at the Roscoe Branch. Every Branch in the District was represented, and various items of business were handled. The spirit of unity was in our sessions as we handled all the business and were completed before 5:00 P.M.

We were especially glad to have with us two Brothers from Nigeria, Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and George Arthur. Brother Nephi is the General Church's missionary to Nigeria. He will be home for five months and then will return to Nigeria. He has been in Nigeria for the past two (2) years with his wife, Lorraine and two children, Nephi, Jr. and Jared. Brother George Arthur is the Executive Secretary of The Church in Nigeria. He will be attending college in Florida for the next three years. His wife and four children are back home.

Brother Nephi addressed the Priesthood in the morning session and encouraged us to strive to build up the Kingdom of God. He stressed that the Gospel will move forward if we are willing to work for The Church.

Business was conducted, and we broke for lunch as our Sisters of the Roscoe Branch served us delicious meals for lunch and supper. After lunch, we started our meeting as Brother George Arthur spoke to us. He thanked God for the opportunity to be with us and stated that the Spirit of God truly is a oneness as he felt God's influence in our meeting. He continued by saying that we should be proud of The Church in Nigeria, since it is just like The Church in America. He blessed God for his calling into The Church.

Officers' reports were given, and before we concluded our business, we took a collection and gave it to Brother George Arthur to help him while he is going to school.

Brother Paul Palmieri, President of the District, made a few closing remarks. He stated that we had a good conference and thanked everyone for their cooperation in handling the business. We closed in prayer to meet the next day.

The Sunday service was held at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa. We were especially delighted to have with us visitors from Arizona, Florida, Michigan and Ohio. Musical selections were presented by the Vanderbilt Quartet and Sister Bertha Bilsky. Opening prayer was offered by Brother John Kendall.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened our meeting, taking his text from *Deuteronomy*, Chapter 8. Brother Nephi reminded us, as Moses reminded the children of Israel, to obey God's commandments and in return, He will bless our lives. Brothers David Nolfi, John Griffith and Paul Gehly followed Brother Nephi, adding that each of us must have a relationship with God, and it is our choice as to what type of relationship this is.

The young people sang two selections, after which Brother Paul Palmieri recognized the many young people present who had recently rendered obedience to The Gospel through baptism.

At the conclusion of the service, Brother Richard Lawson, First Counselor of the District, presented Brother Nephi DeMercurio with a collection that had been taken earlier in the day which amounted to \$668.10.

In concluding our District Conference, we thank God for His blessings, not only during our conference, but throughout each day of our lives.

Visitors At Vanderbilt

Once again, the Saints from Vanderbilt were blessed with visitors, Brother George Timms from Herndon, Virginia and Brother Dick Lawson from McKees Rocks, Pa. on July 22, 1979.

Brother George Timms opened our meeting, speaking of Zion and our preparation for it. The congregation then sang the hymn "Zion, Beautiful Zion!" Brother Dick Lawson then spoke, continuing on the same theme.

We then went into testimony. There were also anointings and the laying-on-of-hands for strength. Brother Dick Lawson closed our meeting with prayer.

Our prayer is that the Lord would always bless and protect our Brothers in the Ministry. God bless you all.

Sister Rose Czapp,
Editor

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

News From Branch No. 3, Detroit, Mich.

Today we glory in the fact that Jesus has blessed us, even though we feel very unworthy. This Sunday, June 3, 1979, our meeting started out with a few remarks by Brother Peter H. Capone. He related how those who have no eyes to see, no ears to hear and no legs to walk are still able to express themselves. He also stated how moving it was to see a crippled, blind youth of 12, aided by another, sit at a piano and play a lovely tune. While engaged in playing, a young lady in a wheelchair with muscular dystrophy was singing with great enthusiasm. These unfortunate people who were handicapped physically and mentally gave their best. How much more should we, who are able, express ourselves in testimony, in prayer, in loving our fellow man and in so many other ways.

At this time, the service was left open for testimony. There was a good spirit prevalent. Before the service was over, we were blessed with a new convert. Joann Carol Coppa got up very gently, gave a small testimony and expressed her desire to serve God. We went to the river and were blessed in witnessing her baptism by her father, Brother Mario Coppa.

To our surprise, we heard of another baptism at Sterling Heights. We combined our meeting with their branch that evening, and the same spirit was there. At this meeting, Sister Joann was confirmed by Brother Silverio Coppa.

The culmination of this perfect day featured coffee, goodies and socializing at Sterling Heights.

* * *

On July 9, 1979, we had a semblance of a mini-conference, with Sterling Heights and other visitors, including Brother Don Collison and his family from Windsor. Brother Louis Vitto opened in prayer. Sisters Alyse Molisani and Diane Hawkins sang a beautiful hymn. The Champine brothers also rendered a selection worthy of praise. What a pleasure to hear the talent that God has bestowed on our young people!

Brother Don Collison opened our service, commenting on God's love and how he would like it to filter down to our children. He read from *Luke 14:16*, the parable of the supper. He mentioned how often the Lord spoke in parables, and we could only understand them with the Lord's spirit. Brother Collison pointed out that if we had to be poor in order to save our souls, then he would rather have it that way, for that is the most important item in our life. Brother Collison told us how strong our desire is to see our children come to the supper. Today, people do not leave room in their lives for salvation. We are too busy with daily chores. He elaborated on the experience of bringing one soul to meet Christ and what a wonderful feeling that is. We enjoyed hearing Brother Collison.

Brother Louis Vitto recalled his childhood years at the old McDougal Branch. He was happy to see many faces from that era still among us. He told us how easy it is to make an excuse not to attend meetings. He asked us how we would feel if God gave us an excuse for not

answering our prayers! This gave us much food for thought.

Brother Sam DiFalco acknowledged the more experienced Brothers around him, being a newly ordained Elder. Nevertheless, the Lord saw fit to bless him and inspire him with some choice remarks. He stated his desire to learn more of God as it is written in the scriptures, "If we do our part, the Lord would be obliged to bless us."

The day was climaxed with our belated Father's Day "pot luck" dinner. Brother Frank Vitto invited everyone present to feast with us, and truly we had a feast. We were able to show the true spirit of hospitality. We are looking forward to the greatest feast of all at the end of our journey.

* * *

We were honored this day to have Brother Rocco Biscotti, one of our Apostles, visit us. Not only Brother Biscotti, but Brothers Dominic Thomas, President of The Church, Nick Pietrangelo and Gorie Ciaravino and many Brothers and Sisters from various Branches visited us this day. Brother Frank Vitto requested that a group of young people sing the GMBA Camp theme song, "He's Everything to Me."

Brother Biscotti opened our meeting with many beautiful experiences and memories of the solid, old-time religion that has set the pattern for his life. He recalled how he met Sister Biscotti in The Church, and they built a solid foundation with the help of God. Serving God is not a job, but an honor and a privilege. Brother Biscotti's theme was with reference to Lehi's journey with his family from Jerusalem. Lehi found the ball (compass) on the ground, and it guided them according to their faith. In our journeys of life, we do become troubled when things are not just right, but when we are faithful, everything works out for us. It's time to count our blessings, the peace of mind that God grants us when we serve Him; also the prosperity the Lord has allowed us to enjoy. God has surely blessed us. Now let us not forget to be humble. Brother Rocco reminded us that there may be trying times ahead, with a possibility of many difficulties to face. We have to be like the men of old, to keep the faith and God will see us through. A good example is Daniel in the lion's den. What a tremendous amount of faith he had to exercise. But God protected him. Brother Rocco asserted he has no regrets in his lifestyle and is still looking forward to do what he can for the Lord.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo made a few comments on the GMBA Campout and the young people's attitude. He tried to relate to the young, and he recalled a remark made to him by our late Brother Gregory Vitto, "Where you are, I was once; where I am, you will be." We need the vitality of the young, but we cannot do without the wisdom of the old.

Brother Frank Vitto asked the three Apostles to administer sacrament. Subsequently, Brother Dominic Thomas reminded us that we could all use the "ball" to guide us. He reiterated that nothing can be done without faith, healing of the sick, comforting the discouraged, helping the young and the old; the list is endless.

Brother Frank urged us to keep a prayer in our hearts for the newest converts and to include all the

young people. He admonished us to look forward to that great campsite with the Lord. God bless all of you is our prayer.

Sister Kay Vitto,
Branch No. 3 Editor

An Israelite Comes To Christ

June 30, 1979

Sister Rose Palacios had a dream in which she saw Richard Portnick (a Jew) come forth to the Ministry and say, "I have acknowledged Christ." Then he called him "Rabbi".

July 1, 1979

Sunday morning, the Lorain Branch was blessed with many visitors, with every district of The Church represented by at least one person, many of whom were young people. Members of the Priesthood present were as follows: Brothers Dominic Thomas, Rocco Biscotti, Dominic Giovannone, Isaac Smith, Frank and Joseph Calabrese and Frank Altomare. Brother Frank Calabrese, the Presiding Elder, turned the meeting over to Brother Dominic Thomas and said, "You have a great task before you this morning." Brother Dominic, being led by the Spirit of God continued the meeting. He called all the young up front to sing. There were at least 50 to 60 young people. We could immediately feel the Spirit and Power of God.

Brother Thomas asked several to give their testimony, while others volunteered. While Brother Isaac Joseph Smith was giving his testimony, his father, Brother Ike Smith, spoke in the gift of tongues, and Brother Frank Altomare was given the interpretation of the tongue. It was a message that was very appropriate for the occasion, both to the young people and to The Church as a whole.

In continuing, with the Spirit of God still prevailing, many wonderful words of encouragement and exhortation were given. At the conclusion of the service, the Spirit of God fell upon Richard Portnick. He did come forth as seen in the experience above and asked the Ministry to pray for him. At the conclusion of the prayer, which was offered by Brother Rocco Biscotti, Richard exclaimed to Brother Joe Calabrese, "I want to come home. I want to be baptized." As he shook Brother Frank Altomare's hands, Brother Altomare, under the Spirit of God, said, "I see the arm of Jesus over your head, and blessed are you."

We met at the lake, where Brother Joe Calabrese performed the baptism. As Brother Richard came forth out of the water, he put his head on Brother Joe's shoulder and said, Praise God and Thank God" over and over again. We returned to the church for the confirmation.

As the service began, Brother Ike Smith opened in prayer, mentioning how we ought to prepare ourselves for a greater work. Brother Portnick was then confirmed. After the confirmation of Brother Richard into The Church, Brother Frank Calabrese asked Sister Alice Romano to come forth to be anointed, for she recently had an injury to her foot by a lawn mower. As the prayer was being offered, the gift of tongues was spoken. There was no interpretation; however, we felt that it was an affirmation to the feeling that Brother Frank Calabrese had had in calling her forth to be anointed, as she did not request it.



We then concluded our service, bringing to a close a meeting that will long be remembered by all who were present. We thank God for the many blessings which He has been bestowing upon us here at our branch in Lorain.

Something To Think About

"For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." (*II Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 19*)

Recently in our branch, Brother Peter Capone spoke on the dangers of a seared conscience. I liked a comparison he made of how a soft tender blister on the hand can become a hardened callus if it is continually subjected to a rubbing contact with a shovel. He likened this to a person who becomes involved in a sinful practice for the first time and the conscience bothers him as a painful, tender blister. This is a God-given warning sign that precautions must be taken. But if this person gives in again and again to this weakness, he soon finds that the conscience becomes hardened as a callus, and he finds himself in bondage to the enemy of all righteousness.

A man becomes subject to, or in bondage to, whatever spirit he listeth to obey. We are living in days of great enlightenment as far as scientific progress is concerned, but along with this progress has come a lowering of the guard, so to speak, as pertaining to virtuous living. The very things that once brought a gasp of horror, because of their sinful nature, have now in many cases been accepted as a fact of life that no longer brings reproach.

I am not suggesting that we as a people should become pent-up fanatics, but rather that we stand fast in the liberty that God has allotted us in the Gospel of Christ. Let us be ever aware of keeping our conscience tender and our hearts and minds open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that shall lead, guide and direct us in all things. Let us pray for each other that the chains of sinful bondage may remain broken throughout the days of our probation here on earth. God be with you all.

Brother Ether M. Furnier
Phoenix, Arizona Branch

Baptism At Sterling Heights

Brother Louis Vitto began our service, stating that whatever the Lord has in store for us today, let us have a listening ear. When we are down in the valley in deep despair and it seems we cannot even pray, somewhere someone is praying for us. He told us that Brother Frank Salerno had recently celebrated his 93rd birthday. This Brother had a serious heart attack this past year, but through the prayers of the Saints and the goodness of God he is with us at every opportunity.

We had several anointings, and the prayers of the Elders reached heaven. This feeling was passed on to the members. The Champine brothers sang, "Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome", very appropriate for our meeting today.

Brother Louis offered prayer, and almost before he said the last word, Lana DiFalco stood and asked for her baptism. Then, Sister Priscilla Gianfermi said she had a very strong feeling that someone would ask for their baptism but hesitated in standing to tell of it. Immediately, Sister Tonachella spoke in tongues. The meeting was then turned over for testimonies, and many spoke of their blessings. The Champine brothers then sang a selection that Brother Larry had written entitled, "I Owe It All to Jesus".

Brother Louis Vitto said that in spite of the heat, we have received blessings from heaven. All things are possible with God, if we only have faith and believe. We must pray that God will continue to give His gifts and that He will continue to give us souls for Him. It takes time to do things for God, time to pray, time to fast, but we have received our rewards.

We sang "I Surrender All," and were dismissed by Brother Frank DiDonato.

We met at the lake at 6:00 P.M., and Sister Lana was baptized by her brother-in-law, Brother Sam DiFalco. Brother Sam has only been an ordained Minister for six weeks, and already he has baptized two members of his family.

We met back at the church for the confirmation. Brother Louis related the events of the morning, telling how God's blessings flowed among us with all the prayers, anointings and testimonies, and there was not even a sermon preached. He said The Church grows when we glorify and praise the name of God. Let Christ mold us into whatever He wants us to be. Let the revival in our hearts start now. If we are not spiritually cleansed, we cannot bring others into the Gospel.

Brother Jerry Benyola offered prayer. The Elders knelt around Sister Lana, thanking God for another soul being bought into the fold. Sister Lana was then confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto. She testified that this was something she had wanted for a long time, and that she now had a lot of Brothers and Sisters.

Many more beautiful testimonies were heard, a continuation of the spirit of the morning. One of our visitors, Sister Carolyn Martorana from Niles, Ohio, apologized for testifying at both meetings but said she had truly received a blessing here today.

The spirit of God is moving tremendously in the DiFalco family. Sister Raffaella, mother of this large family, had a dream early Sunday morning. It seemed she and

her natural sister were walking when they came to a beautiful tree laden with an abundance of fruit. Some of it was ripe for picking, while other fruit was still green. She remarked to her sister, "See what wonderful things we have in our Church?" She then awoke. When her son-in-law, Brother Richard Thomas, stopped by on Sunday morning, she told him there would be a baptism this day.

Brother Jerry Benyola said the best thing for us to remember is to have charity within us. This surpasses everything. Visions, speaking in tongues, love for Christ and our Brothers and Sisters, all these gifts will fall in place if we have charity in our hearts.

Brother Louis said we cannot praise God enough or thank Him enough for the Gospel He has given us. The Church is progressing, and we must pray that it will reach the four corners of the earth.

We sang "The Longer I Serve Him" and were dismissed.

We then adjourned to the basement for a social hour and to enjoy the refreshments prepared by the Sisters.

Sister Hazel E. Zoltek,
Branch Editor

Baptism At Lake Worth, Florida

July 1st was a special day for the Lake Worth, Florida Branch when Carolyn Ingressia asked for her baptism. As we prepared for the opening of the morning meeting after Sunday School, Carolyn couldn't wait any longer, and we were all richly blessed as she stood on her feet and asked to be baptized.

Sister Carolyn is the sister of Sister Barbara DeBellis of the Lake Worth Branch and has attended our meetings when she is on vacation in Florida. We all felt two years ago when she started coming to church that she was one of us.

Sister Carolyn was baptized by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr.

Sister Ingressia is at home now in New York and attends the Lockport Branch.

We in Lake Worth miss seeing Carolyn in our midst and are looking forward to December when we will see her in Florida again!

Baptism And Ordination At Quincy Mission

On Sunday, July 8, 1979, the Saints at the Quincy Mission witnessed a soul enter into the straight and narrow way. The Brothers and Sisters formed a circle at the water's edge and sang "Just As I Am", after which Sister Rhonda L. Ward was baptized. Our new Sister came out of the water filled with love as she embraced the Saints one by one.

We are truly grateful to God for the straightness of the path and narrowness of the gate which we have entered in, Jesus having set the example.

* * *

On Sunday, July 15, 1979, with the rostrum filled

with members of the Priesthood and many visitors in the congregation, we rejoiced in the Quincy Mission as the Brothers so beautifully spoke of the Restoration of the Gospel and the workings of the Gospel within us. Present were Brothers Cleveland Baldwin, Matthew Rogolino of New Jersey, Frank Rogolino of Fort Pierce, and James Howard and Wilber McNeil, also of New Jersey.

The setting was perfect and solemn as Brother John Gray was ordained a Teacher. Brother Matthew Rogolino washed Brother John's feet, and Brother Frank Rogolino ordained him into the office of a Teacher.

We are happy to see our Brother John set apart to labor as a Teacher, for surely the work before him is great.

Sister Meredith Martin,
Quincy Mission Editor

Visiting Apostle And Reinstatement At Aliquippa

On July 15, 1979, the Aliquippa Branch had a day of rejoicing and blessings. Brother Paul D'Amico and his family were visiting with us, along with many Saints from Imperial, Detroit Branch No. 3, Glassport and Greensburg.

Brother John Ross opened our morning service with prayer. Brother Paul D'Amico then spoke, using as his text *Moroni 10:4* and *Revelations 14:6*. There was a very good spirit prevailing among us during his sermon. We are grateful to God for allowing Brother D'Amico to recover so well from his heart surgery. Brother Paul is still expounding the word of God as he has in the past.

Brother Joseph Ross welcomed Brother Daniel and Sister Danelda Yoder, who have transferred to our Branch.

The afternoon service was opened by singing "Still Sweeter Every Day" and prayer by Brother Paul Palmieri. We continued with the hymn "Take The Name of Jesus With You".

Brother Tony Mavrich, son of Sister Olga Mavrich, expressed his desire to be reinstated into the fold. Brother Anthony Palmieri made a few remarks before the reinstatement, reminding us to keep the Sabbath Day holy and that nothing is impossible before God.

We sang "I Surrender All". Brother Paul Palmieri offered a beautiful prayer as the Elders formed a circle about Brother Tony. Brother Paul asked the Lord to manifest Himself as he laid hands on him.

Many wonderful testimonies were given, thanking God for His goodness. We sang "Because He Lives", and Brother Charles Jumper offered the closing prayer. It was a day well spent in the service of our Lord.

Sister Dora Rossi,
Branch Editor

Ohio District Spiritual Gathering

The Ohio District held a spiritual gathering in Warren, Ohio on Sunday, July 22, 1979. "The World Needs a Friend Like Jesus" was sung as our opening hymn, and prayer was offered by Brother Jonathan Molinatto of North Carolina. "The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning" was then sung.

Brother Dominic Bucci of the Youngstown Branch spoke briefly concerning Christ's appearances to His disciples after His resurrection. Brother Peter Molinatto followed and spoke on the conversion of Cornelius who was told to go to Joppa where he would be told what to do. He also mentioned the vision Peter had concerning the sheet that was filled with all manner of animals and his reaction to this experience, which ultimately resulted in his going to Joppa to meet Cornelius. Brother Pete also spoke of Paul's ministry among the Gentiles.

We then heard testimonies from five individuals who had been baptized within the last year.

A group of Saints and children from Perry sang the hymn "The Family of God", and then all those present who had attended the GMBA Campout at Massanetta Springs in June sang "Let's Just Praise the Lord".

Sister Irma Milano gave her testimony concerning her husband, Brother Mario, who is presently in Italy. She also told a few experiences in her life where fear was removed.

Sister Florence LaRosa, formerly from the Erie Mission and now residing in North Carolina, sang a solo entitled "My Wonderful, Wonderful Lord".

Sister Rose Palacios then related a few experiences that she had had. In one of the dreams, she went to the church to make sure everything was ready for services on the next day. As she finished checking everything, she tried to turn the lights off before leaving the building, but she could not. She tried several times, but with no success. The next day, the voice of the Lord spoke to her and told her His Spirit could not be turned off. Brother Joseph Calabrese spoke further on the experience of our Sister, stating that you cannot shut off the Spirit of God. It may grow dim or obstacles may appear, but you cannot shut it off. He also urged us that we should not lose our identity as one of God's children.

Sister Carla Dziak sang "I Could Never Outlove the Lord," and Sister Karen Progar of Aliquippa sang "Fill My Cup, Lord".

Brother Frank Giovannone reaffirmed that which was spoken on "You can't shut off the light or Spirit of God", as he had spoken these same words that morning during the services at the Warren Branch.

Brother Elmer Santilli brought the service to a close by offering prayer.

Conference Notice

The October 1979 General Church Conference will convene on Thursday, October 18, 1979 at 7:00 P.M. in our General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pa.

The Thursday and Friday sessions will be open for the PRIESTHOOD AND TEACHERS only.

The Saturday sessions and the Sunday meeting will be open to all members.

NOTE:

1. Meals will be furnished on a pay-as-you-attend basis. The cost will now be \$1.50 per meal per person. Children 6 to 12 years old will be \$0.75. Children under 6 years of age, free.
2. Those attending conference must make their own arrangements for lodging.

The Sunday meeting will start at 10:00 A.M. ALL ARE WELCOME.

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Rachel Amanda to John and Barbara Straccia of Branch No. 1, Detroit, Michigan;

Dominic A. to Edward and Kathy Giovannone of Warren, Ohio;

Justine William to Sam and Kim Cuomo of Windsor, Ontario;

Sarah Beth to Claude and Angelica Champine of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Larry Dale, Jr. to Larry and Darlene Scarsella Col-lison of Ft. Pierce, Florida;

Demetrius Derrell to James and Sylvia McSwain Davis of Quincy, Florida.

— WEDDINGS —

MORRIS - MANES

Mr. Gordon L. Morris and Sister Monica Marie Manes of the Niles, Ohio Branch were united in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio on April 7, 1979.

Brother John Manes, uncle of the bride, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Mrs. Jerri Malvasia.

The newlyweds are residing in Brookfield, Ohio.

JACKSON - CICCATTI

Brother Phillip Ray Jackson and Sister Francine Diana Ciccatti were united in holy matrimony on May 26, 1979 at the San Diego, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Howard Jackson, and musical selections were presented by Sister Donna Ciccatti.

The Jacksons are making their home in San Diego, California.

HUTTENBERGER - CICCATTI

Brother James Allen Huttenberger and Miss Lynette Marie Ciccatti were united in marriage on July 7, 1979 in San Diego, California.

The bride's father, Brother Louis Ciccatti, officiated at the wedding ceremony. Sisters Donna Ciccatti and Diane Surdock rendered musical selections.

The Huttenbergers are residing in Edison, N. J.

SKUPNY - IMPASTATO

Mr. Larry Skupny and Miss Rose Ann Impastato exchanged wedding vows on July 13, 1979 at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Brother Frank Conti, pianist and Wayne Conti, solist.

● OBITUARIES ●

KRISTIE NATH

Kristie Nath, infant daughter of Sister Terri and Leon Nath of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed away from this life on June 29, 1979. She was born on June 22, 1979.

She is survived by her parents, her brother and her grandparents, Richard and Barbara Ackman of Phoenix, Arizona and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Nath of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Richard Scaglione, with Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. assisting. Graveside services were held at the Monongahela Cemetery.

We pray that God will bless and comfort our Sister and her family in their time of need.

SALLIE BALDWIN

Sister Sallie Baldwin of Chattahoochee, Florida departed from this life on July 11, 1979. She was born in Chattahoochee, Florida on April 9, 1894 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 25, 1955 in Perth Amboy, New Jersey by Brother John Buffa.

She remained a faithful, humble Sister, her hands stretched out to all people at all times. After a long period of illness, God delivered her from her duties. Funeral services were held at the Quincy Mission, Quincy, Florida, with Brother Matthew Roglino officiating. Sister Sallie was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

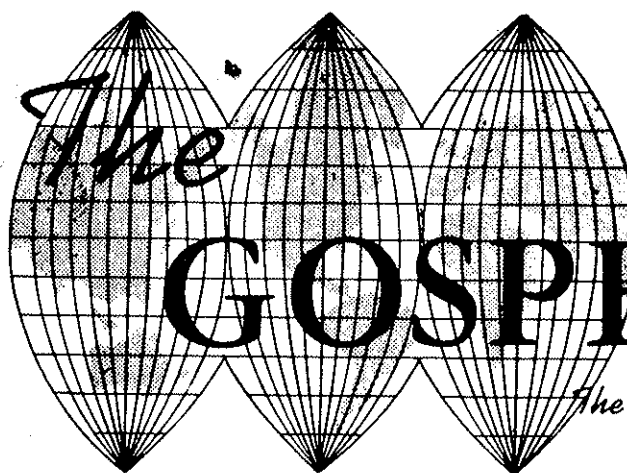
ROSE SIRANGELO

Sister Rose Sirangelo of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on May 25, 1979. She was born in Italy on June 28, 1896 and was a very faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ for 48 years.

She is survived by her husband, Brother Frank Sirangelo, two sons, three daughters, five step-daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brothers Michael Radd and Eugene Perri, Jr.

Sister Rose will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
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IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. LOVALVO

QUESTION: What happened to the souls of those who lived before Christ; and to those who did not know of Him?

ANSWER: I can only answer the above questions by referring to the Word of God in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Let us first understand this important thing. The plan of redemption was put into effect by God from the beginning of the World or Creation of Man. In the Book of Mormon is recorded the following passage of scripture: "Now Alma said unto him; This is the thing which I was about to explain. Now we see that Adam did fall by the partaking of the forbidden fruit, according to the word of God; and thus we see, that by his fall, all mankind became a lost and fallen people. . . Now if it had not been for the plan of Redemption, which was laid from the foundation of the world, there could have been no resurrection of the dead; but there was a plan of redemption laid, which shall bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, of which has been spoken." (Alma 12:22-25) However, this great plan of redemption could only be implemented by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world, suffered pain and agony, and finally crucifixion so that all men who believed on Him might be partakers of Salvation. If Christ had not come, there would not have been a resurrection from the dead. All men would have crumbled into dust, nevermore to rise. But, through His death and Resurrection, He made it possible for all human beings to resurrect, both the good and evil. The righteous, who kept His commandments resurrected with an immortal and glorious body, to remain with Him for all eternity; the evil or unrighteous, those who rejected Him and kept not His commandments would also resurrect, but to an eternal damnation, forever barred from the glory and face of the Lord.

However, the plan of redemption also considered the state of the soul between death and the resurrection. This too was established by God from the beginning. As soon as the person died, his spirit (soul) went before God, there to be judged according to his works. It is written thus in the Book of Mormon:

"Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection— Behold, it has been made known unto me by an Angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then it shall come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called Paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow. And then it shall come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil, for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works rather than good; therefore, the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; and these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and this because of their own iniquity, being led captive by the will of the devil. Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked, yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful looking for the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in Paradise, until the time of their resurrection." (Alma 40:11-14)

We understand then, by the word of God, that Paradise and the place of darkness, called Hell by other holy men of God, have existed from the foundation of the world. Paradise was, and is, the place of rest and happiness for the spirits (souls) of the righteous; and Hell, the place of darkness, was, and is, the place of unrest and unhappiness for the unrighteous.

For those who lived before Christ was born, who believed in God, and kept His commandments, and lived a righteous life, their spirits were admitted into Paradise, awaiting the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All those who died before Christ, resurrected at the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Alma says, "Now, whether the souls and the bodies of those of whom has been spoken shall all be reunited at once, the wicked as well as the righteous, I do not say; let it suffice, that I say that they all come forth; or in other words, their resurrection cometh to pass before the resurrection of those who die AFTER the resurrection of Christ." (Alma 40:19)

It is very clear then, that all men, from the beginning of the world, as soon as their spirits left their bodies

would stand before God to be judged according to their works.

The question as to how God judges those who knew not Him nor Christ must be left to Him who is All-Wise and All-Knowing. Nevertheless, I cite some scripture that should enlighten us somewhat on that subject; Lehi (Book of Mormon), in speaking to his son Jacob, on the great plan of redemption, says, "And men are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil. And the law is given unto men. And by the law no flesh is justified; or, by the law men are cut off. Yea, by the TEMPORAL law they were cut off; and also, by the SPIRITUAL law they perish from that which is good, and become miserable forever." (2 Nephi 2:5) The above scripture says that ALL men know good from evil. No matter where human beings are, they know good from evil. By that knowledge, if they do not know anything about God or Christ, they shall be judged. So says the word of God.

Again it is written, "Wherefore, He has given a law; and where there is no law given there is no punishment; and where there is no punishment there is no condemnation; and the mercies of the Holy One of Israel have claim upon them, because of the atonement; for they are delivered by the power of Him. For the atonement satisfieth the demands of His justice upon all those who have not the law given to them, that they are delivered from that awful monster, death and hell, and the devil, and the lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment; and they are restored to that God who gave them breath, which is the Holy One of Israel. But woe unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state." (2 Nephi 9:25-27)

One should not misunderstand the scripture wherein it says, "Where there is no law, there is no condemnation, etc.," for all men have a law unto themselves. Every person knows good from evil. Some might argue that what is good to one is not necessarily good to another, especially if there is a difference of culture and education. For instance, the point is made, the people in the African jungles have an entirely different culture than we do; the Buddhists and other religions, including the Jews, do not believe in Christ. By what law are they judged? There is one thing for certain; all religions and cultures, whether they differ from one another, have a law unto themselves, and a knowledge of what is their good and evil. God will certainly know how to judge them. But to those who have the knowledge of Christ preached unto them, they shall be judged accordingly. So, whether people have a knowledge of God and/or Christ, they shall be judged according to the temporal law of their knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, no man shall ever be able to say, "I am free from condemnation or punishment because I do not come under the law of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." O foolish man. No one shall be exempt from judgment by the Lord. As soon as their spirits depart from their bodies, they shall stand before God and be judged accordingly, and be consigned, either to Paradise or to hell, until they resurrect; one to the resurrection of Life eternal; the other to the resurrection of Damnation. So it is written.

GREETINGS FROM OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma is a state where you will not find an Indian Reservation. But, here in this state, we have many of the Seed of Joseph. Brother Bill Crall and I, Sister Evelyn, consider this a great privilege to live here in Oklahoma.

Although we don't have a Church around the corner, we consider it a privilege to meet with the Saints of Latter Days, whether we travel the 200 miles plus to Dallas, or whether this procedure is reversed, such as it was this past Sunday, August 12, 1979.

Our visitors were Brother and Sister George Benyola and family, Brother and Sister Ralph Frammolino, Brother and Sister Ardinger and Brother Doug McClellan. They were all getting up at 5:30 A.M. to be in Anadarko, Oklahoma to begin the meeting in our home at 11:00 A.M. We had five of the Seed of Joseph with us representing five tribes — Kiowa, Caddo, Commanche, Missouri-Otoe, and Wichita.

We enjoyed the singing, Sacrament and prayers. Brother George opened the meeting with the Scripture found in *Matthew* 16:13-18, that we must have a firm foundation. Restoration is always expounded, and the *Book of Mormon* can be referred to at all times with ease.

Brother McClellan, a Teacher in Dallas, gave his testimony and told our Indian friends how they are a Choice People in God's eyes. After the meeting, we all enjoyed visiting as we had our noon meal. That is when questions are asked and answered. Whenever an Indian is invited to our meetings, they are always told to stay for dinner. Whenever the meeting is opened for testimony, our Indian friends always take part in this part of our service.

The Dallas Saints have been quite faithful in supplying clothes for the baby layettes that are given out personally to our friends in need. Recently, I received a package from Warren, Ohio that contained handmade diapers and gowns. In the past few months, I have been finding it difficult to buy cloth diapers. This is a wonderful work the Ladies Circle is doing. I am glad that I have a part in it. As I give each of these boxes of baby clothes, they also hear of our Church. Every box given has at least six pieces of our Church literature in them, and each piece of literature has the name of our Church, our name and address and phone number on them. THANK YOU, SISTERS OF THE LADIES CIRCLE.

The first part of July, I (Sister Evelyn) had an affliction in my right leg. The first week, no treatment was doing any good. But, the Saints were praying. I believe

CIRCULATION authorized under 39USC. 4354; (P.L. 86-682) Sec. 132.22 PSM of The GOSPEL NEWS published monthly at Monongahela, Pa. for the 12 months ending October 30, 1977.

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3. There are no Stockholders nor Bondholders.

4. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceeding the date shown above was 1000.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Lucetta Scaglione, Office Manager
The GOSPEL NEWS

God was speaking to me. I wrote seven notes to the people I work for weekly and told them the doctor had told me I should not work for a month or more or never. The pain began to leave, and the people have accepted that I cannot clean their homes anymore. They know my belief, and God works in a mysterious way. I had experienced in months past that sometimes, I had been asked by our Indian friends to attend some meeting during the day, and I would have to say, "I'm sorry, I have to work." So now, I can be available any time of the day for our work among the Seed of Joseph, which is why we are here in Oklahoma.

We had a grand and glorious time at our twenty-fifth anniversary open house. We had included in our open house a prayer service. An Indian has a prayer service for everything from birth to death. So we had a prayer service with Brother George Benyola in charge. This was attended by about fifty and lasted about 1½ hours or more. Many tribes were represented, and three Indian ministers spoke after Brother George opened the meeting. We heard hymns sung in different Indian languages, prayers and the table blessed in different languages. Testimonies, songs and scriptures were expounded. You would have thought you were in one of our meetings with many Elders sitting in front waiting to speak. Oh, you Brothers and Sisters, you will never know the blessings you will receive when you live daily with the Seed of Joseph. It is hard to show you in a few hours or a couple of days what we experience living among them. God keeps blessing you every minute of the day. We are so thankful we listened to God back in 1973 and 1974 and made our move to a strange land. You need to live with the Seed of Joseph to be able to understand their ways and to win their love.

May God bless each of you richly.

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall
404 E. Oklahoma
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
Phone: 1-405-247-6712

NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters, and Friends for their prayers, cards, letters and telephone calls. Your thoughtfulness was very comforting in our hour of sorrow in the passing of our beloved husband and father, George L. Funkhouser, Jr.

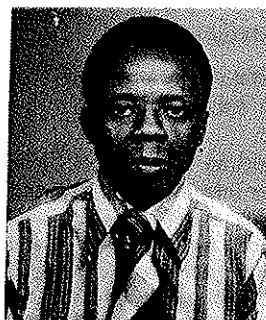
Sister Mamie D. Funkhouser, Jr.
Brother George L. Funkhouser, III

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Thank God for answering everyone's prayers that were offered in my behalf. I thank you for the prayers, beautiful cards and telephone calls that I have received in the hospital and at home. Thank God, I am feeling much better, and there is much improvement in my life. Thank God, I now have a pacemaker. May God bless you all a hundred-fold. I love you all. I remain your Brother in Christ Jesus,

Michelangelo Gioia

AFRICA NEWS



Brother George F. Arthur, the Executive Secretary of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria arrived in Detroit, Michigan on August 9, 1979 on Pan Am Airline to attend the Bethune-Cookman College, at Daytona Beach, Florida.

He left Detroit the next day to attend the Foreign Missions Committee Meeting at Aliquippa, Pa. on August 11.

He stayed with Brother and Sister Ross until August 18 when he departed for Daytona Beach.

Brother Arthur brings love and greetings from our Brothers and Sisters of Nigeria to all the Brothers and Sisters in the U.S.A., The Parent Church.

He requests we pray for him and his family, he wants the LORD to make it possible for him to attain a higher education which will eventually be profitable for him and our Church in Africa.

Those traveling near Daytona Beach can visit Brother Arthur at Bethune-Cookman College, surely he will be delighted to see his Brothers and Sisters of The Church.

Submitted by Brother John Ross

A TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

It seems like only yesterday
I stood at the river's edge;
Promised to serve God always —
Made that lifelong pledge.

Today I sit and ponder —
God's blessed me from the start;
From the arms of a loving mother
Brought to Jesus — never to depart.

A mother's job is not easy,
She cannot do it alone;
She needs God's guidance along the way,
From childhood, 'till she has grown.

I had that kind of a mother
Through her my life was blessed;
There were times I thought I knew better,
But her way t'was always best.

Fond memories of Sunday School
when I was very young;
She said that's where to learn
All about what's right and wrong.
Many lessons I will never forget —
A way of life — A definite pattern set!

At the age of understanding
I knew I must decide —
What better choice than Jesus!
He was ALWAYS at my side.

From my mother's arm to Jesus
To him she led the way;
I've made my "home" in his house —
And that's where I want to stay.

Poem written by Carol Benyola Higgins

District Conferences . . .

Ohio District Conference

The Sunday session of the Ohio District Conference was held in Youngstown, Ohio on August 26, 1979 with a capacity crowd in attendance.

The Youngstown choir, under the direction of Sister Amy Cook sang four selections to introduce our meeting. Prior to the singing by the choir, Sister Rose Palacios related that she had an experience whereby she saw a man standing at the door of the church ready to open it and he said to prepare ourselves to receive a blessing.

Brother Paul D'Amico introduced the service by reading from portions of the 6th Chapter of the Book of Mormon. These particular verses deal with the annihilation of the Nephite people in the great battles with the Lamanites at Hill Cummorah in A.D. 384. They were destroyed because of their great iniquity. Approximately 230,000 persons, men, women and children lost their lives in these great battles. Mormon said his soul was rent with anguish because of the slain of his people as he cried "O ye fair ones, how could you have departed from the ways of the Lord. . . ."

God made a covenant with the Nephites that as long as they would serve Him, they would be blessed in the land. In as much as they transgressed, they would be swept off the face of the land. Brother Paul strongly reminded us that the same covenant applies to us.

Brother Rocco Biscotti, who was our next speaker, cautioned us to beware lest we fall into the same condition as those Nephites that were destroyed.

At this juncture, Brother Paul Ciotti arose and under the influence of the spirit spoke these words, "Thus saith the Lord, 'Hear my people, the word of the Lord. If I did not spare my people in the days of old, I will not spare today, saith the Lord. These, who were the apple of my eye, transgressed my commandments and I destroyed. I have given unto you, the Gentiles, the glory of my gospel and if you will not understand and appreciate the things I have given unto you, I will come and I will remove them from you. I will bless you if you will be obedient unto my commandments. Remember, my people, only the righteous will build the kingdom of Zion,' saith the Lord."

Continuing on, Brother Rocco said, "Let us not be afraid to tell the world that we belong to The Church of Jesus Christ." He encouraged us to be faithful to the promise we made that we would serve God all our days. We were reminded that we are a chosen people of God and He has much work for us to do. Our Brother issued a challenge to the youth to work for God and his closing remarks advised us to wait upon the Lord.

Brother Vince Gibson followed Brother Rocco and he told of the Nephites, who when they went out to battle and won, did not thank God. He likened them to Jack Horner, who sat in a corner and said, "What a good boy am I." He cautioned us to beware lest we develop this same attitude. Brother Vince encouraged us to be fervent in love, for love covers a multitude of sins. If we love one another, we will be blind to the faults of each other.

Brother Frank Calabrese introduced his talk by quoting a couple of lines from a hymn: "When Thy judgments spread destruction, Keep us safe on Zion's Hill. This, he said, should be our theme. He warned us not to be slothful in our service to God, because He does not

speak in vain. Blessed are His people when they know and do His will. As he held up the Bible and Book of Mormon together, Brother Frank said, "This is the message to us today."

Brother A. A. Corrado related experiences how his father, Brother John Molinatto, Brother Ishmael D'Amico and others were introduced to the Gospel and they in turn spread the message to others. Ultimately the Church was established in Youngstown and in other cities. He was so happy to see the building was so filled, knowing that many present were the offspring of the ones these staunch pillars had preached to.

Brother Frank Altomare related several experiences he had where God had healed him of several afflictions.

Brother Frank Giovannone was anointed as he is to undergo surgery on September 11.

Sister Ann Fortunato was also anointed for affliction.

Brother Joe Calabrese gave the closing remarks and reminded all of the spiritual gathering to be held in Lorain, Ohio on September 16.

Brother Jim Moore of Imperial, Pa., brought our Conference to a close by offering prayer.

Brother Jim Alessio
District Editor

OUR WOMEN TODAY:

The Ladies' Uplift Circle of Herndon, Virginia

The Herndon, Virginia Mission — Ladies Uplift Circle held a special meeting on May 11, 1979, in honor of two Elder Sisters, Sister Della Day and Sister Esther Andrews. The program was entitled, "This is your life in the Church of Jesus Christ".

Memories were shared concerning Sister Della Day. She was baptized at Rock Run Branch in Glassport, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1948, by Brother Joseph Shazer and confirmed by Ishmael D'Amico. Sister Della's favorite hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul", was then sung by the congregation.

Memories of Sister Esther Andrews were also shared. She was baptized on March 31, 1935, at Glassport, Pennsylvania, by Brother Tony DiBattista and confirmed by Brother Isaac Smith. Sister Esther's favorite hymn, "Redeemer of Israel", was sung by the congregation.

When the program was completed, the two sisters were presented with white corsages.

The Ladies' Uplift Circle was started by Sisters Lydia Allen, Daisy Barns, Margorie Malone, Anne Stephens, Gertrude Little, and Della Day in Washington, D.C. Meetings were held in their homes. At one of these meetings Sister Gertrude Little donated the first dollar, which started the building fund in 1950. The fund grew until August 1976 when the Herndon Mission building was purchased.

All the Sisters who attended this special meeting enjoyed the uplifting fellowship. Refreshments were served at the closing of the program.

Sister Esther Andrews
Editor, Herndon Mission

**THE GOSPEL
NEWS**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

**CIRCULATION
MANAGER**
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 1159
Window Rock, Ariz. 86515

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
10090 Aspen Lane
Windsor, Ontario
Canada N8R 2B8

PENNSYLVANIA
Alvin Gehly
R.D. 1
Fredonia, Pa. 16124

**BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE**
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .**"FIRST MARRIAGE ORDAINED BY GOD"**

By George Neill

Marriage is as old as time; it dates back to the creation, and to the Garden of Eden. After God had fashioned the world a beautiful place for every creature to live in, both on land, in the sea, and in the air, He decided to create man that he might have dominion over all these creatures. The record states, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him." God then realized it wasn't good for man to be alone, and He determined, as the record further states, "I will make him a help-mate for him." This wondrous miracle was performed in this manner: "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof, and the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man." And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

I know there are some who smile at this "rib" story, but it is because they overlook something. Seemingly it was a strange thing for God to do. Why did He not just say, "Let there be a woman?" Why, after creating man perfect, did He take one of his ribs to make for him a life's companion? There was a very good reason. I believe God wanted man to know, from the very beginning, that his wife was truly a part of him — that he was to love her and cherish her as he would his own flesh. The record refers to Eve as a help-meet from which comes our lovely word helpmate. She was to stand with him (Adam), work with him, plan with him, to share life with him, both in joy and in sorrow; she was the perfect model, the forerunner of all helpmates.

When God brought her (Eve) unto the man (Adam), as the record tells us, and they saw each other for the first time, it must have been love at first sight. They must surely have realized instantly that they belonged to each other, clasped hands, and walked away together under the benediction of their Creator. Thus God performed the first marriage ceremony; He gave away the first bride. Let us remember God's primary purpose in this act was to make these two people happy!

Marriage is the meeting of two travelers at the crossroads of life, linking arms, minds, and hearts; it is striding together, thinking together, planning, talking, hoping, and praying together; and this togetherness is meant to exist from the wedding day to the journey's end. When two people enter into this happy condition of togetherness, they may be assured it will last throughout life if they determine as Joshua did, when he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Editor's Note: This reprint was deemed an appropriate follow-up to the August Issue (Page 1, "It Is Written" and Page 5, "The Problems of Divorce".)



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Queen Vashti

Dear Girls and Boys,

Vashti was the beautiful queen of Ahasuerus, king of Persia. He was the most powerful monarch at that time. His kingdom was from India to Ethiopia which consisted of over an hundred and twenty-seven provinces.

Vashti had all the luxury a queen could desire. The palace was gorgeous with its marble pillars, beds of gold and silver and drinking vessels of gold. She is described as "fair to look upon." The king must have taken great pride in her beauty.

The king sat on his throne in the great palace in Shushan. In the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his princes, servants and nobles of the provinces. He showed them the riches of his wealthy kingdom. The feast lasted for seven days and was held in the palace garden. There were white, green and blue hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings. The gold and silver beds were on pavements of red, blue, white and black marble. There was royal wine in abundance served in vessels of gold. Every man drank according to "his pleasure". At the same time Queen Vashti had a feast for the women in the royal house.

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Vashti to come before him. She was to wear the royal crown on her head. He wanted to show his friends his beautiful queen. Vashti refused to appear before her husband, the king. The king became very angry. Queens had never before disobeyed the kings!

King Ahasuerus counceled with his wise men who were learned in the law. He feared other wives would hear of this and they too would disobey their husbands. He was advised that Vashti come no more before the king and that her royal estate be given to another. A new decree was published throughout the empire that all wives shall give to their husbands honor, both great and small. This pleased the king and the princes. Letters were sent to all the provinces in every language of the people. A new queen was chosen in Vashti's place. Her name was Esther. You can read this story in the Book of Esther.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH

Sister Grace Francione, now a member of the Tucson, Arizona Branch, recently observed the 50th anniversary of her baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ. This most



important event in her life-time occurred on August 18, 1929, when she was taken into the waters by Brother Patsy DiBattista.

Her testimony has always been that it was the hand of God that made it possible for her to come to the United States. Prior to leaving Italy, the Lord gave her this experience. "I dreamed I was walking, with my child in my arms, to a city called Victory. After some time, I came to a large body of flowing water. I looked about and felt lost and frightened. A man appeared and I asked him directions to this city called Victory. He replied, "Across this river." At first I could only see the fast flowing water, but then I saw a very narrow path. I crossed it by putting one foot in front of the other very carefully. When I reached the other side, I found this huge mountain covered with soft, lovely green grass. When I looked back from where I had crossed, the area was dark, but I could see a crowd of people. I prayed, "Please Lord, let me see someone I know." I then saw my mother and I called to her, "Mama, please come." She answered me, "Daughter, you have been blessed to cross the River Jordan in your life time. I shall have to wait to cross it after death."

When she arrived in Detroit, her husband, Brother Mario Francione, had already been baptized into the Church. Since she was very devoted to her own religion in Italy, she felt very bad that he had changed. However, the Lord gave her a very impressive experience as she approached the Devine Street church, Branch No. 1. "As I entered the Devine church for the first time, such a strong feeling came over me. I silently prayed, "I do not know anything about this church, but God, I want to serve you." A voice replied within me, "If you want to serve me, this is the place." These experiences and others led her to ask for her baptism.

Space would not permit us to relate the many wonderful experiences that the Lord has blessed her with, however, suffice it to say that she has always had a lively testimony of the goodness of God. She has never hesitated to give her testimony to anyone, relative or friend. During the years she has enjoyed much happiness as well as many trials, etc., which have only rooted her more deeply in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She has held the office of ordained Deaconess for many years. She was a long time member of the Rochester, New York Branch.

Sister Francione is now 85 years old and still in fairly good health and also quite active. We of the Tucson Branch as well as all the Brothers and Sisters throughout the Church who know her, wish to extend our congratulations to our dear Sister for her faithful service to God all these many years. May she be blessed with many more wonderful years filled with God's love and goodness. May she realize, too, the great desire to see all her family and the whole world, come to accept the Lord. Also that The Church of Jesus Christ might continue to grow and be filled with the spirit and power of God.

Brother Paul Francione
Tucson Branch Editor

MBA HIGHLIGHTS . . .**Ohio Area MBA Retreat**

The Ohio Area MBA held its second annual Retreat near Lorain, Ohio during Labor Day weekend. Brother Ron Dziak acted as director at Camp Isseekas from Saturday morning to Monday afternoon, September 1-3, 1979.

After check-in and lunch, seminars started early Saturday afternoon. The topic of the seminar was "An Eye to the Future." Experiences of famous men in the Bible and Book of Mormon were discussed, as well as those had by Brothers in the early days of the Restoration. The fact was stressed that many of the prophecies for the latter days are now being fulfilled, and also many warnings about the future are currently coming forth from the Lord. We thank God for His continual guidance and leadership.

The Saturday evening meeting was conducted by the Elders and Teachers. We sang many songs and several Saints from visiting areas offered their testimonies.

The Priesthood was well represented, including two members of the Quorum of Twelve and several members of the Quorum of Seventy. The Ohio MBA would like to thank the members of the Priesthood for their continual efforts to support this extension of the Church.

The Sunday morning meeting was conducted by the Ohio District. Brother Richard Scaglione opened the meeting with a reading from the Book of Helaman concerning Nephi and Lehi. He was followed by Brother Harold Burge and Brother Paul Palmieri.

A singspiration was held Sunday afternoon with many Saints participating. Several locals from the Ohio Area, along with many groups from Pennsylvania, Atlantic Coast, and Florida Districts, sang special selections.

The Sunday evening meeting was again hosted by the District and was opened by Brother Frank Calabrese. It was then left open to singing and testimony with many Saints taking part. The gift of visions was given to two Sisters during our Sunday meetings, and the Word of the Lord came forth twice during the Sunday evening meeting. A beautiful spirit of unity was felt by both young and old.

We thank all those who participated in the activities for their efforts to make our Retreat a success. Most of all we thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His love, guidance, and active participation during our gathering.

Just as a note, the Ohio Area MBA is planning a Spring Retreat.

Much Love In Christ,
The Ohio Area MBA

In Memory

This is in memory of Brother George L. Funkhouser, who passed on to his reward June 15, 1979. He was born in Somerville, N.J., July 10, 1924, and made his covenant with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on October 16, 1949. He was baptized in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, by Brother Rocco Ensana, and confirmed by Brother Patrick

Rogolino. He was ordained an Elder on October 12, 1958, at Edison, New Jersey, by Brother Rocco Ensana.

He left behind his wife, Sister Mamie D. Funkhouser, and son George L. Funkhouser, III.

Brother George was very active with the work of The Gospel News, and worked with Brother William H. Cadman as assistant-to-the-editor, printing of the paper from 1957 to 1960. He was the first assistant editor of The Gospel News to Brother Cadman (editor). Brother Cadman had gone into prayer and asked the Lord in some way to send him help. It wasn't very long after that, Brother George contacted him and offered him this help. Brother George transformed The Gospel News type written copy into The Gospel News Publications, and did the actual printing, typesetting and layout. The August 1957 issue of The Gospel News was set on the church linotype machine which is featured in that issue. Brother George enjoyed this work, most of it done between 2 A.M. and 9 A.M. before leaving for his office each day. Brother Cadman and Brother Funkhouser dreamed of the church having their own print shop. He also wrote the article "Signs Of The Time" for three years which we all enjoyed reading.

Sister Renée Connor
Editor, Levittown Mission

MY EXPERIENCE

On Wednesday, June 13, 1979 at GMBA Campout in Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, Virginia; I had a strong desire to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. I had asked Brothers and Sisters to remember me in prayer, to join this Church. Brother Rocco Biscotti was talking and then Brother Steve Champine sang the song "I Love My Jesus", this song touched me. I walked toward the rostrum; I felt that tonight was my night. I reached the rostrum and said I wanted to be baptized.

I thank God for my baptism; I thank God for the family He gave me; I thank God that I never complained about going to Church and I always looked forward for the following Sunday to come, I thank God for the prayers of the Brothers and Sisters.

One last thought before I close: After you are baptized you have reason to SMILE and THANK GOD!

Sister Lisa Rogolino

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings
you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

—Psalm 91:1-6.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

Another Convert at Windsor, Ontario Branch

In the last few months, the Windsor Branch has seen three new Sisters called into The Church. It has been beautiful to see their hearts touched, especially those who have been attending for some time and understand the Gospel. Our most recent baptism was Connie Barnes, wife of Brother Ken Barnes. Now they are not only husband and wife, but more importantly, Brother and Sister in Christ. On Sunday, July 8, the Saints were enjoying the testimony meeting. A special blessing was felt as one of our Brothers testified concerning God's presence and a calling spirit he was allowed to feel. The Ministry confirmed the fact that God was reaching out to someone that day.

After several lovely testimonies and some singing, we felt hesitant to go home, sensing that something wonderful was yet to happen. Connie Barnes then asked to be anointed for strength. Then prior to the closing of the service, she stood and asked to be baptized. The Elders suggested that we all go straight to the river. However, since the hour was late, we would hold the confirmation later in the evening. This enabled our Sister's family, some of which attended Branch No. 2, as well as many other Brothers and Sisters to attend the evening meeting.

We had several members in the Michigan-Ontario area join us. The visiting Elders expressed their happiness in sharing God's blessings with us. They reflected upon their own Branches, how the members would devote their time towards fasting and prayer for the purpose of another convert.

Our new Sister was baptized by Brother Bob Stanek and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Sister Cindy Henderson,
Assistant Editor

Prayers Were Answered

On May 31, 1979, early Friday morning Sister Alice Suska was brought to the hospital with pain that seemed to suddenly come upon her. Upon examining her and the results of the tests taken, she was told that it was her appendix. They had originally scheduled her for surgery that evening, but due to the doctor being free that afternoon, he decided to perform the appendectomy that afternoon. After the operation he told Alice that it was truly a lucky thing that he had operated when he did, because it was so bad that it was ready to burst. He was surprised because she didn't have the symptoms that showed how serious her condition was.

Within a week Alice was sent home because she was doing exceptionally well. On Sunday, nine days after her operation, Alice went with her husband, Jim to Church in the Bronx Branch.

We thank God for the helping hand that was surely extended to our sister. Through our prayers though she went through a serious experience, the Lord did lighten what she was afflicted with.

The doctors stand amazed at the results of their labors when the Brothers and Sisters are their patients. Little do they realize that our loving Saviour will always lighten whatever befalls us. Jesus never fails when we turn to him in prayer with trust, hope and love.

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On July 25, 1979, Wednesday morning, Brother Jim Link, Sr., Elder in the Bronx Branch, underwent an operation. A few months ago he had an accident that injured his right foot. He delayed going to the doctor as much as he could but he knew it was inevitable that something had to be done. The doctor removed a bone in his big toe and replaced it with a plastic one. After a week in the hospital he was given encouraging news that he was healing exceptionally well.

He is home now recuperating. After the doctor took out his stitches in two weeks following the operation he was amazed at how quickly he is progressing. He told him he had six weeks healing within that short time and really didn't know what to say. Jim told him to say, "Thank God" in which the doctor readily agreed.

All the Brothers and Sisters were so happy to see him at our Sunday Service, thankful to God for answering our many prayers in his behalf. A song expressing our feelings was sung to him that morning. We felt you may want to share the words of praise to our Lord:

WE PRAYED AND HE ANSWERED

We do welcome you Jim and are glad you are here
Our Savior in spirit to share.

We do feel the Lord heard as we prayed in His name,
And knowing from Heaven he came.

Chorus:

We're thankful that Jesus was there.

We're thankful that Jesus did care.

He did take all your fears,

And your pains disappeared,

And bravely your burden did bear.

We do know that he has quite a way to go before his foot is completely healed. At present he is unable to stand for any length of time and the swelling and some pain will continue to give him a problem. But we feel the Lord will be there continually ministering unto his needs. The love and mercy that God continually gives to all the Saints is the most wonderful blessing we could receive. We wait on the Lord as His will be done.

Bronx Branch Editor

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(Editor's note:) Sister Alice did not receive an elaborate welcome — not because we do not love her — but because we were all at the GMBA Campout in Virginia when she attended Services after her operation.

Baptism At Windsor

Sister Connie Moella Barnes of the Windsor Branch was baptized on July 8, 1979 by Brother Bob Stanek.

A service open to the Michigan-Ontario area was held that same evening. Our new Sister was confirmed at that time by Brother Peter Scolaro from Detroit Branch No. 1.

Florida Bound

On Friday evening, July 13, 1979, the Bronx-Brooklyn MBA Local gave Brother Nick and Sister Pearl Zinzi an evening to remember. This was their last meeting with the members of the Local. What started as a simple farewell meeting for Pearl and Nick, developed into a very touching and surprising occasion. Poems and songs were written especially to them. Many expressed their feelings, some reminisced going back many years, happy times and times of sadness. Everyone agreed that they touched each of our lives in many ways. They were only a phone call away when someone needed them. Their visits to the homes and also to the hospital when a Brother or Sister was ill, phone calls, letters and cards we will always remember. They have always been involved in all Branch activities.

Sunday, July 22, 1979 was the last Service they would attend with us as Branch members of the Bronx. The spirit of God was so prevalent throughout the meeting. Being a special day for everyone as we felt the time had come for Pearl and Nick to part from us. Two special hymns were written and sung as our farewell in their honor.

After forty years in the Bronx Branch, they finally decided it was time to make a change. They left for Florida on July 6, 1979. They are now residing in Tampa. Due to a Branch being in the area, their decision to move was made without hesitation. They are living near their daughter, Gelsa Risola and her family who attend the Tampa Branch.

Tearfully we all bade them farewell, feeling that the Bronx's loss was Tampa's gain. They have worked and served the Branch and MBA Local continually for many years. We are sure that they will do the same in Tampa.

Our love and prayers will go with them wherever they go. We look forward to seeing them at our GMBA Conference this November, God willing.

All the Brothers, Sisters and friends of
Bronx Branch and Bronx MBA Local

(Pearl and Nick were given a booklet compiled with all the poems, songs and words brought forth at the two meetings. We pray that each time they look at it they will be reminded of a love that could only be found within our spiritual family.)

Greensburg Branch

On June 17, 1979, we at Greensburg enjoyed another day of blessings as two more converts asked for their baptisms. Richard Francis Markizene and his wife Ruth Darlene Markizene.

At campout they asked that we take the spirit of camp home to our Branches, and I feel this is truly a manifestation of that spirit.

Sister Darlene asked to be baptized after our meeting and before we left from the water's edge; Brother Rich asked also.

Sister Darlene was baptized by Brother Lirio Fallavollitti and confirmed by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother Rich was baptized by Brother Lirio and confirmed by Brother Lirio.

Remember our new Brother and Sister that God will bless them in the future.

May God bless you.

Sister Lana Fallavollitti
Branch Editor

Blessed Assurance

On May 27th Brother Joseph Perri announced to the Hopelawn Branch that in October he would be going to Africa along with Brother Mike Hildenbrand. In our testimony meeting he told us how happy he was that the Lord would be using him for this missionary work and asked us to pray for Brother Mike and him. Brother Joe said he would ask only one more thing from us — he was concerned for his family who would be left at home — that we would take an interest in them, calling and visiting to see if they needed anything.

The Spirit of God was felt throughout our testimony meeting. Some of the Brothers and Sisters expressed their feelings of hearing other Brothers who have gone to Africa, but never gave thought that the Lord would use someone so close.

As Communion was passed we sang the hymn "Place Your Hand In The Nail Scarred Hand". I would like to relate the experience I had at this time. When we started to sing the words of the chorus of this hymn that goes as follows "Place Your Hand In The Nail Scarred Hands", I heard Brother Joe's voice above everyone's and I lifted my eyes toward where he was sitting on the rostrum. I saw a Personage, all aglow, place His hand on the shoulder of Brother Joe. Then the Personage moved across the rostrum to Sister Mary, Brother Joe's wife, who was playing the piano and placed both of His hands on her shoulders.

My body trembled to witness such a beautiful sight and I knew then that the Lord had given Brother Joe His assurance, His Blessed assurance that He would protect our Brother and his family while he would be away doing the will of God by spreading this wonderful Gospel.

In relating this experience to the Branch all expressed their thankfulness to God for a confirmation that the Lord would give His blessings to our Brother and his family.

Sister Jean Benyola
Hopelawn Branch Editor

Brooklyn, New York Branch

We of the Brooklyn, N.Y. Branch thank God for the true spirit of the Lord. On June 17, 1979, Father's Day, as the world celebrates it, we rejoiced in celebrating this day with Brother Matthew Rogolino in knowing that his children Lisa and Thomas have given our Lord a great Father's Day gift; by surrendering their young lives and joining the family of the Brothers and Sisters here.

Thomas Rogolino was baptized on June 11, 1979 and Lisa Rogolino was baptized on June 14, 1979 at the GMBA Campout. A Sister related later she had seen a light encircle Tom's body so great that his face changed. This Sunday was their first communion service and also their first feet-washing service.

Brother Matthew Rogolino related an experience. He, Brother Walter Cihomsky, Brother Joseph Arcuri, his two

younger children and myself had gone to West Virginia to visit with some people who are interested in the Church. On the way back he filled the gas tank in West Virginia, returned to drop off Brothers Walter and Joseph at the campout and continued the journey back home. He blew a tire, which he changed; the alternator belt broke and he was very low on gas. There were very long lines at the few gas stations that were opened and afraid of stalling if he stopped he continued on his way. Realizing the peril and danger of his predicament they all turned their hearts and minds to the Lord. "God was our co-pilot," there was no gas station to stop at for fuel or help. God helped our Brother and his family that we arrived home safe and sound without any mishaps.

We can surely thank God for all He does for us.

May God bless all.

Sister Joan Rogolino
Branch Editor

Rochester, New York Branch News

During the week of June 17 to the 24, 1979, the Rochester Mission had the joy of having Evangelistic Revival Meetings. On Sunday, Father's Day, Brothers Joe Calabrese, Elmer Santilli, Bob and Toni Quinn came to visit with us and on Monday they passed out fliers inviting people to come to Church. After Community singing, Brother Joe Calabrese opened with prayer and Brother Elmer Santilli followed by reading the 18th Chapter of Mosiah, which tells about the waters of Mormon and Alma baptizing Helam and others. Alma asked them, "Are ye willing to mourn with those that mourn; . . . yea comfort those that stand in need of comfort and to stand as witnesses of God at all times in all things and in all places even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God and be numbered with those of the first Resurrection, that ye may have Eternal Life." We are the same Church today and God is a God of Miracles. It takes the power of God to convince the world for there will be one God and one Church. A new commandment that Jesus gave was to love God above all and thy neighbor as thyself.

Brother Joe Calabrese, the next speaker, emphasized on the same subject, that God has not changed and as long as we are in one accord, God will bless us with gifts and the power which is in the Restoration. He urged us to be fixed in our purpose for Satan will try us. God preserved a few to bring forth His purposes. We have pillars in the Church that God used to bring forth His purposes. Brother Joe spoke on the importance of Father's Day in respecting our Heavenly Father and to love the Church as our Mother.

After Sacrament was administered, Brother Bob Quinn gave his testimony.

Brother Ansel D'Amico gave the concluding remarks.

On Friday and Saturday Brothers Vince Gibson and Wayne and Brian Mortarano came and continued to pass out fliers inviting people to come to Church. On Sunday, June 24, the Lockport Branch met with us for the semi-annual meeting of our two Branches.

After community singing, we were led in prayer by Brother Paul D'Amico. Brother Vince Gibson chose for his text 2 Nephi 21st Chapter; The Lord shall set forth His hand the second time to recover the remnant of His

people from the Islands of the sea. God is a living God who hears and answers the prayers of His people. It doesn't matter how many years we have been in the Church, but it matters what we are doing for the Church.

Sang hymn "An Angel Came Down". Brother Paul D'Amico continued on the same subject. As long as we are obedient to God's commandments He will bless us. If we transgress, He will cut us off from the face of the earth. In 1827 an Angel appeared to Joseph Smith bringing forth the everlasting Gospel. When the fullness of the Gentiles has come, Israel will come also. Brother Paul quoted the words of Moroni, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, The Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; if ye ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."

Brother Henry Berardi spoke on the same subject in the Italian tongue.

Brother Perry Simone, 94 years of age gave his testimony.

Brother Ansel D'Amico was the last speaker and he related an experience that he had 42 years ago while he was ill.

The week came to a close by singing hymn "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again." Closing prayer was offered by Brother Bob Quinn. A wonderful day and week was spent. We wish to thank our Brothers for loving and caring for us. May their efforts and sacrifices bring much joy to many souls that they come in contact with.

On July 29, a van of 14 Brothers and Sisters from Detroit, Mich. Branch No. 2 attended the pageant at the Hill Cumorah and on the next day, which was Sunday, they met with us. After community singing, the choir sang "He Looked Beyond My Fault". Sister Anita Baer, accompanied by Sister Lisa Dorado sang "Just As I Am."

After leading in prayer, Brother Ansel D'Amico chose for his text Rev. 14; 6-7 and Moroni 10:4. He emphasized how God worked in primitive days in bringing people to the Church. After singing the hymn "When the Angel Moroni" the meeting was opened for testimony and a wonderful spirit prevailed throughout the service.

We were dismissed by singing "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again", and Brother Joe Straccia closed in prayer. After lunch, we were very happy to socialize and to share and enjoy God's blessings.

Sister Carmella D'Amico
Branch Editor

Lorain, Ohio Branch

Brothers and Sisters:

We of the Lorain Branch would like to share these Words of the Lord with you and may the blessings of God rest with each of you as you read them.

During our Sunday service on June 24, 1979 as we were singing hymn No. 281 "There is Power in the Blood", the Gift of Tongues was spoken by Brother Paul Ciotti, who was visiting us from McKees Rock, Pa. Sister Katherine Cocco gave the interpretation as follows: "This is the message from heaven. There is power in the blood!"

Brother Jim Moore from the Imperial, Pa., Branch was our first speaker and he spoke about his baptism. He felt the spirit of repentance at work and hurried home to tell his mother. When he reached her, he began to sing "Shall We Gather at the River". At this juncture, Brother Frank Altomare arose and put his arm around Brother Moore and said under the spirit: "I see a man standing at the door at this time. In his hands he has two books, and those two books are the two books standing before The Church of Jesus Christ which is the Bible and The Book of Mormon. Blessed are my people this morning if they heed both the Bible and The Book of Mormon, for such is the kingdom of God. I am your messenger. I was with Jesus when he was upon the face of the earth. *I am the one that kissed His feet. I am one of the Nephites! Thus saith the Lord! He has sent me here to tell you these things. The time is far spent and there is little remaining. Awaken my people. Draw nearer unto me, your God!"

During our testimony service, Sister Rose Palacios was telling how she had mentioned in the fast and prayer service on Saturday previous that when all the gifts and the Word of the Lord come forth, we are hungry for all these things and that she believes the more we seek for these things... before she could go on, the Word of the Lord came forth through Brother Ciotti as follows: "Thus saith the Lord of host. Hear ye my people. Did I not tell the Gentiles if they will exercise Faith as the Brother of Jared that I will reveal many things unto them? And I will Bless my people if they will trust me today and exercise Faith in my word. I will open up the veil and you shall see many glorious things. This is the beginning! This is the dawning of a new day for my people. Hearken and I will bless thee. I will raise thee up, my people. *Hear my words. I am God!*"

During the anointings, the Word of the Lord came through Brother Frank Altomare as follows: "Thus saith the Lord unto my people. Do not doubt what I can do. I am the same. I am and I am! I sit upon my throne. There is no change in me. I am the same. All my people, draw nearer unto me and Love me more than your families. Love me more than gold and silver and I shall show you great things. All the world is going to be astonished when they will see this Church with such great power. It shall be whiter than snow. Woe unto this world, if they will touch my priesthood! Woe unto this world if they will try and knock this Church down. They shall howl like dogs. They shall cry and you shall soon hear these cries from the human beings. There shall be some despair. There will be no peace. I'm going to destroy! I'm going to cut! I shall cut with my two-edged sword! Blessed are those who have been watching and praying".

Brothers and Sisters, praise God for the Love He has toward His people, to reveal such great things unto us and that we are not kept in the dark about the things that are coming.

Sister Rose Palacios
Branch Editor

* Reference: See III Nephi 11:19.

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The highest of distinctions is SERVICE to OTHERS.
— King George VI

Brother Nephi DeMercurio's Homecoming — Detroit Branch No. 3

The Brothers and Sisters at Branch No. 3 waited two years for this day, but Brother Nephi and family waited a timeless two years. Sunday, July 29, 1979, our prayers were answered, they arrived home safely. There wasn't a great fanfare, but the jubilation was in everyone's heart and it glowed on all our faces.

Brother Dominic Thomas and Brother Gorie Ciarravino were among the elated group, plus many visitors from different Branches. There was a feeling of gratitude in our midst as the girls choir sang and Sister Olivia Paraviano played the piano. Brother Gorie opened our meeting with prayer. Brother Thomas asked Brother Nephi's family to come forward for an appropriate welcome. Sister Lorraine expressed how happy she was to be home and how she missed the fellowship of the Saints, most of all.

Brother Nephi injected an air of excitement in our meeting place as he expressed how appreciative he is of our stars and stripes and what it truly represents. This land of America is surely the land of promise and choice above all other lands. We need only to go to other lands to fully comprehend this. Despite all the problems we may encounter, we still have this Promised Land, which is ours. We, as a Church, possess a knowledge and a spirit that we should not underestimate. God has given us this spirit and it is greater than we can fathom. We have a tendency at times, to forget how much God is a part of our life, until we are forced to rely upon Him completely. Brother Nephi realized how God had to do His own work and move His own people, in His own time. Without His help, we can do nothing. He remembered how many times they cried and prayed for God's help and aid and help did come, thru God's hand.

Brother Nephi explained how much the African needs love and God, but as yet they do not quite apprehend this. The white man was not the first to teach them about God, it's in their history but they do not understand it. It's our job to help them realize their past and their future. Also who they are, and most important, who Christ is and what the Restored Gospel is all about. At one time Brother Nephi prayed to know more about the history relating to the Dark Ages. The people were very interested and eager to learn. At this time, Brother Nephi pleaded with our young people to learn more about history and God and not to throw away this golden opportunity of education.

Brother Nephi read from Alma, 17th Chapter referring to the journies of the sons of Mosiah, and their dependence upon the scriptures and prayers for answers to problems that would confront them. He likened this to his own experiences, for Brother Nephi and his family relied upon the word of God many times for their answers. They tried to fast and pray and found this almost impossible. Being in the tropics, a person's body loses the fluids and nutrients and in this weakened condition — "how could you fast"? They were forced because of conditions, to protect their souls and not their bodies. What seemed impossible, is not impossible with God's help. God always provided even though it appeared to be insurmountable odds. Prayer moved many mountains for them.

He read about the joy Alma must have had to see the four sons of Mosiah. Brother Nephi could understand how Alma felt but when he compared his two year visit against the fourteen years, he expressed his inadequacies.

Brother Nephi told us how they struggled to raise a garden, with insects larger than one could imagine. Lettuce was next to impossible to grow. There was an unending struggle to seek wisdom from God for survival. The cost of food was astronomical—peppers at \$1.60 pound, corn \$1.60 can., peas \$4.50 can. Their first Thanksgiving was a memorable occasion. They had a beautiful harvest and were able to purchase a chicken for \$11.00. As they prayed for God's blessings, they remembered the pilgrim fathers and how they must have suffered before they were able to enjoy their first harvest.

As Brother Nephi read into the 17th chapter, he related the similarity in that portion of scripture to his experience. He witnessed the system of chiefs and tribes, the division among them and the extreme language variance, plus dissimilarity in the people themselves.

Brother Nephi found himself daily calling upon God for help and this was the only way he could survive the burden Satan would impose upon them. His life was comforted by God's Spirit. He gave thanks to God for this day, for the Love and prayers of the Brothers and Sisters.

Our lengthy meeting came to an end and Brother Frank remarked on how unimportant time is when we are enjoying God's Spiritual Substance.

We will all cherish the moments that Brother Nephi recalled. There is no glamour attached to this type of dedication. But we can do something to leave our mark. We cannot go through this life without doing something significant in our service to God. When we made our commitment, we also took on that responsibility. We can truly say thank God for their safe return and may God's richest blessings rest upon them.

Sister Kay Vitto
Branch Editor

Branch No. 1 Welcomes Visitors

On July 29, 1979 Branch No. 1 was blessed by having Brother Dick Christman as our guest speaker. He and his wife Sister Pat and daughter Melisa were visiting their daughter Sister Cindy, the wife of Brother Tom Everett.

Brother Dick opened the meeting with his text taken from the 2nd Chapter and 7th verse of Genesis and spoke on the breath of life, its importance to all of us and how we all take it for granted. We realize the importance of things when we no longer have them or have them in short supply. Everything we enjoy in this life is a gift of God.

Brother Tony Scolaro followed by speaking about John the Baptist and elaborating on Brother Dick's main theme.

Sister Pat sang a solo at the request of Brother Paul Vitto the Presiding Elder. The hymn was a favorite titled "Follow Me".

Sister Diane Everett
Branch Editor

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Erin Joy to Stephen and Yvonne Saffron of Phoenix, Arizona;

Jason Christopher to Ron and Cathy Genaro of New Orleans, Louisiana;

Bradley Thomas to Tom and Cindy Everett of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1;

SharaAnn Lynn to Vito and Sharon Gioia of Detroit, Michigan, Branch No. 1.

● OBITUARIES ●

CONCETTA GRANDE

Sister Concetta Grande of Detroit, Branch No. 3, left this life on August 13, 1979. She was born on August 19, 1894 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 28, 1940.

She is survived by her husband, Brother Joseph Grande, and one brother, Emidio Nerone.

Sister Concetta was a faithful Sister and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

WILLIAM DANIEL THICKSTUN III

Brother Danny Thickstun passed away on August 9, 1979. He was born March 4, 1927 and was baptized February 12, 1956. Brother Danny was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ a few weeks before his death. Brother August D'Orazio officiated at the service, assisted by Brother Donald Ross.

Brother Danny is survived by his wife, Sister Mary, two children and three grandchildren. We humbly ask the Lord to comfort his family.

GEORGE L. FUNKHOUSER, JR.

Brother George Funkhouser, a member of the Levittown Mission, passed on to his eternal reward June 15, 1979. He was born on July 10, 1924 and was baptized on October 16, 1949. He is survived by his wife and son, and a host of family, Brothers and Sisters and friends.

Brother Frank Mazzeo and Brother Samuel Dell conducted the funeral services, and they were assisted by Brother Joseph Perri.

He was a faithful Brother who had completed the work God had for him to do, and is now reaping the fruits of his works. This is something we all must do; work while it is day, because night soon cometh, when no man can work.

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.
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Praise Our God and King

Praise, O praise our God and King: Hymns of adoration sing;
For his mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise Him that He made the sun Day by day his course to run;
For His mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise Him that He gave the rain To mature the swelling grain;
For His mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

He hath bid the fruitful field Crops of precious increase yield;
For His mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.



IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo



QUESTION: When will the Twelve Tribes of Israel be gathered upon this land of America?

ANSWER: In order to answer the above question scripturally and prophetically, the reader must be made acquainted with the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ

regarding the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ on the earth. In the so-called "Lord's Prayer," Jesus says in part, ... "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."

Many prophets, through the spirit of God were able to substantiate the prayer of Jesus by predicting the establishing of His Kingdom on the earth. Isaiah foretold of the "Mountain of the Lord's House being established on the tops of the mountain and exalted above the Hills." (Isaiah 2nd Ch.) Micah foretold the same thing as Isaiah. (Micah 4th Ch.)

It is the faith of the above Church that, as the Gospel was restored on this land of America where the Seed of Joseph (American Indian) is, that the Kingdom of Christ, or Zion shall be established on this land also. Through the advent of the Book of Mormon, which is a record of the American Indian; how they were brought here by the hand of God; their divisions, their wars and contentions, as well as their religious life; how Jesus came to this land and established His Church also, a tremendous light has been cast on the gathering of the whole House of Israel.

It is written in the Book of Mormon that the Gentiles would play a great part in bringing to the Seed of Joseph (American Indian) the record (Book of Mormon) of their fore-fathers, and the Good News of the Restoration of the Gospel. After the Seed of Joseph receives this record, they shall eventually rise in the glory of God and build a City called the New Jerusalem, with the assistance of the Gentiles, and as many of the House of Israel that shall come (3rd Nephi 21:23) For a more extended information, read the 20th and 21st chapters of 3rd Nephi.

A type and shadow of Israel gathering eventually on this land is like unto the time when the House of Israel was brought to the land of Egypt by Joseph, the son of Jacob who was the ruler of that land under the Pharaoh. Another type is the dream of Joseph who saw his brothers' sheaves bow down to his sheaf; and the eleven stars made obeisance to his star. While some may say that these dreams were fulfilled in Egypt, the word of God says that Joseph's branches would go over the wall. (Gen. 49) It is the faith of the Church that Joseph's posterity was brought to the land of America by the hand of the Lord. (Read Book of Mormon, 1st and 2nd Nephi) Prophecy is history advanced. It also has more than one fulfillment at times. Was the dream of the sheaves and the dream of the stars making obeisance to Joseph's to end at Egypt? Definitely not.

The New Jerusalem which is to be built by the Seed of Joseph on this land, assisted by the Gentiles and as

many of the House of Israel as will come is indicative of a fact not wholly seen by many, nor understood, except by the spirit of prophecy within a man. Consider the above statement regarding "As many of the House of Israel as shall come" in its prophetic light. True, that the Bible and Book of Mormon speak of the dispersion and eventual gathering of the House of Israel to the lands of their inheritance. Please notice that the scripture says "lands", a plural word. It is also a fact that the Tribe of Judah who was dispersed shall be gathered to the "land" of their inheritance (3rd Nephi 20:29) and shall build up the Old Jerusalem, a holy city unto the Lord (Ether 13:5). But this shall happen only after they have believed in Jesus Christ, and that He is their Redeemer and their Messiah. (3rd Nephi 20:29-33) also (2nd Nephi 25:16-18)

The expression "as many of the House of Israel that shall come" certainly means that from the "lost" tribes of Israel shall come many to assist the Seed of Joseph in building the New Jerusalem. This shall take place on this land of America.

It is true, as the Book of Mormon says, that the Jews shall gather in Old Jerusalem, however, the prophets also looked (by the spirit of Prophecy) to the land beyond the Old City. They spoke of "getting hence to a wealthy nation, a land without bars or gates or walled villages." It is believed that this "wealthy nation" is the land of America where the Gospel was restored. One prophet called this land "a land shadowed by eagles' wings", depicting the shapes of North and South America. Jacob called it, "the everlasting Hills". Isaiah predicted that the "mountain of the Lord's House (His Kingdom) shall be established on the top of the mountains" which is believed to be on this land. Ezekiel calls this land "the mountains of Israel". It must be understood that this land was, and is, a choice land to God, and a promised land to the Seed of Joseph and to as many of the House of Israel that should come here after their long dispersion. The prophet Ether says that this land became a choice land unto God after the waters of the great Flood receded from it. The Jaredites were brought here by the hand of the Lord as were the Nephites.

Even though the Old Jerusalem will be built up again, a holy city, like unto the Old one, and the Jews will believe on Christ as the Only begotten Son of God, many of the Lost Tribes will come to this land to join with their "brother" Joseph. The scripture does not say that all of the Tribes (or every person of the tribes) shall believe and be brought to this land; but, "as many as shall come".

The existence of this land was very vague, at the best, to a few prophets, and unknown to the rest of the world. Hence, only by the spirit of Prophecy can one detect where America is spoken of in the word of God.

Jesus, in speaking to the Nephites on this land, told them that He was going to visit the "other sheep" which were not of "this" fold, meaning that, because the "other sheep" were the lost Tribes, they were another fold. (3 Nephi 16:17) He makes the same assertion of "not of this fold" in the 1st verse also. However, He states very emphatically, that there is to be only "one fold". While it may be considered "one fold" figuratively, no matter where the people of God are on the face of the earth, yet, literally the phrase "one fold" can only be fulfilled when all the people of God are gathered in the same place, and that place can only be on this land of America where the

mountain of the Lord's House is established, or on the land that is shadowed by eagles' wings.

Ezekiel prophesied that the House of Israel should serve Him in His Holy Mountain. (Ezekiel 20:40) This is the same Mountain referred to by Isaiah when he said that God's mountain should be established on the tops of the mountains, etc. The Lord also, speaking by the mouth of His prophet said, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My Holy mountain..." (Isaiah 11:9)

Daniel, in interpreting the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, said that, "a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands". That stone is the Kingdom of Christ, which has a small or humble beginning but, by the time it strikes at the feet of the Image, it has become a powerful substance which will shatter the image, and go on growing until it becomes the mountain spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, where "none shall hurt or destroy". In this stone kingdom shall the prophecies of the Seers and prophets be fulfilled where even the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and the bear shall eat straw like the ox, and a small child shall play on the hole of the asp, etc.: where righteousness shall endure for a long time, and Satan shall have no power over the hearts of the Saints of God. (1 Nephi 22:25,26,27) (Isaiah 11th Ch.: Isaiah 2nd Ch.)

When the mountain of the Lord's House is established and the "stone kingdom" is in full sway (Peaceful Reign) the Law shall go forth out of Zion (in this land) and the "word of the Lord" from Jerusalem. Not the Old Jerusalem but the New one that shall be built on this Land. Therefore, the Kingdom of Christ shall be established on this land, not anywhere else. America, or the land shadowed by eagles' wings, is the focal point of the final gathering of the House of Israel. Although the Jews shall build up the old Jerusalem, a holy city unto the Lord, it is on this land that every Tribe of Israel shall be represented, in order to fulfill the word of Christ when He said, "... And as many of the House of Israel as shall come." Remember, the Jews shall build up the Old Jerusalem to be a Holy city after they shall have believed that Jesus is the Son of God. (3 Nephi 20:29-31) Then shall it come to pass that which is written, "For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the House of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it. And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost Tribes of Israel; and the lost Tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews." (2 Nephi 29:12,13)

On the land that became a choice land unto the Lord (The American Continents, shadowed by eagles' wings) shall be the glorious finale of the great plan of God; where there shall be One fold and One family. Not Two or more folds, but One fold literally on this land. This is also the land (after it has been cleansed by fire) where the heavenly New Jerusalem shall come down, according to the prophet Ether. (Ether 13 Ch.)

It is the writer's opinion that God, in His own unique way shall bring the Old and the New Jerusalem together to become One fold on this land.

To summarize then:

- 1—America is where the Gospel was restored
- 2—The mountain of the Lord's House shall be established in America
- 3—The Stone kingdom (or Peaceful Reign) shall be in America
- 4—Zion shall be established in America
- 5—The Seed of Joseph was brought to this land by the hand of God
- 6—The Gentiles shall bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph (American Indian)
- 7—The Seed of Joseph shall build the New Jerusalem on this land
- 8—The Gentiles shall assist the Seed of Joseph in building the New Jerusalem
- 9—As many of the House of Israel as shall come will also help to build the New Jerusalem
- 10—The Jews shall gather in their home-land and build up the Old Jerusalem to be a Holy City unto the Lord after they believe in the Son of God.
- 11—The Lost Tribes shall be brought from their dispersions from the North and the South wherever they have been scattered
- 12—The house of Israel (all Twelve Tribes) shall have their own records and shall have access to each other's records
- 13—The Lord Jesus shall come down in person periodically in the New Jerusalem
- 14—All nations shall come to the mountain of the Lord's House (on this land)
- 15—The word of the Lord shall go forth from the New Jerusalem (on this land)
- 16—The law shall go out of Zion (on this land)
- 17—A representation from all the Tribes shall be on this land

God shall bring the lost tribes (or remnants thereof) from wherever they have been dispersed, and they shall come on that highway called the "Way of Holiness", with the Lord leading them to the promised land which is America. "Sorrow and sighing shall flee away, and everlasting joy and song shall be in their hearts." He shall bring them to the "wealthy nation, without bars or gates" spoken by the prophet. He shall bring them to the "Stone kingdom" where there shall be no racial prejudices, no hatred nor malice, where none shall say, "I am sick"; where none shall say, "Know ye the Lord? for all shall know Him, etc." Where none shall hurt nor destroy in all His Holy mountain. And all this shall occur in America.

—o—

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. and Mrs. Corie Ciaravino
38185 Carolon Circle
Westland, Michigan 48185

Telephone: 313-728-8182

SELF EVALUATION

By Brother Mark Randy



How do I rate before God?
What am I doing to deserve
His love, His care and His
paternal protection?

1. Have I visited anyone
this week? This month? If not,
why not?

2. Have I told anyone of
His saving grace? What am I
doing about it?

3. Have I cared enough to pray and truly feel the burden so strong, to plead with God for His help on behalf of others? If not, why not?

4. Have I offended or caused an offence by word, manner of behavior or careless attitude?

5. When someone else offends me, have I gone to that person alone and stated my hurt? Have I affected a reconciliation quickly? If not, why not? When I have not succeeded, have I made a second attempt by bringing another person with me or a Teacher? If this did not bring results, have I told the Church about my fruitless attempts? If not, why not? Is not my happiness and my salvation important enough to try every means available to me? Only when I have exhausted all three methods taught by Jesus have I fully complied with the will of God.

More writings have been recorded about forgiveness than any other subject, because more hurt, misery and division have been caused by plain neglect of this simple counsel of Jesus. By telling someone of my hurt without trying Jesus' way to restoring peace might cause more harm and possibly make it harder to obtain a reconciliation. Therefore, I must not neglect this important life line to peace. To neglect this is to destroy all that I have worked to gain, as hurt and offenses do not go away by themselves. They need airing with the persons involved. It takes humility, prayer and the proper attitude. It is better to suffer wrong than I may gain a Brother, Sister or Friend. It is better to pay a great price to regain a lost love. I must make changes where changes are needed, both in attitude or manner of approach. It is easier for me to make that change than to ask others to do so.

6. Do I care enough for the salvation of others to make sacrifices and devote prayers in their behalf?

7. Would I rather be a father, mother, brother or sister than an instructor or a critic to my fellow men?

8. Have I read the word of God this week? This month? If not, why not?

9. Our faith in God helps us to change anxiety to achievement; adversity to tolerance; though sometimes unacceptable, conflict to triumph; tragedy to conquest; and defeat to victory.

10. It is worth your time to prove this. It works. **BEGIN NOW.** It is never too late. Try now. If you fail, try again, but never give up as you will travel unto victory.

This self evaluation is important to build me into a

perfect child of God. To neglect this life line is to cut short my relationship with others and with my God whom I love. It will also, in a great part, deprive my soul of its full happiness and a free spirit. Therefore, may God help me to fully follow these precious truths is my prayer.

CHANGE IN GENERAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Brother Paul Palmieri was elected as the Executive Secretary of the General Church in the April Conference of 1979, replacing Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo. Brother Paul's address is as follows:

Mr. Paul Palmieri
319 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Pennsylvania 15001
Telephone: 412-378-4264

Someone is crying, does anyone hear?
the anguish and pain of each fallen tear
will anyone dare to reveal his own soul
in helping another who feels so alone?

Isn't it strange how we live each day?
Touching each other, yet going our way
Never wondering what's down deep inside
The fears and the doubts we feel we must hide.

For a selfish heart and a closed mind
Cannot feel the need to be kind
When seeking contentment with each heart beat
To make his own life more complete.

So listen and hear when someone calls out
Crying a tear or expressing a doubt,
Pray that the Lord will touch him within
With faith and hope a new life to begin.

Sister Patti Gianfermi
Sterling Heights Branch

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I would like to express my thanks to all of you for your sincere concern, your cards, visits, phone calls, flowers and most of all, your prayers during my recent hospital stay. I am now home recovering from surgery and would ask that you continue to pray for me that I might have a complete, speedy recovery. May God bless each of you.

Brother Frank Giovannone

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
260 Division Street Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR
Richard Scaglione

EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS
Joseph Bittinger
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION
MANAGER
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 1159
Window Rock, Ariz. 86515

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ennsana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
10090 Aspen Lane
Windsor, Ontario
Canada N8R 2B8

PENNSYLVANIA
Alvin Gehly
R.D. 1
Fredonia, Pa. 16124

BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"LET US GIVE THANKS"

*"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness;
and for His wonderful works to the children of men!
And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and declare His works with rejoicing."*

—Psalm 107:21,22

The psalmist's eloquent and stirring exhortation to return thanks and praises to God for His blessings and providence are surely most fitting and timely during this autumnal and harvest season.

President Carter, in keeping with our time-honored American tradition, will formally proclaim the last Thursday of November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Happily, many countries all over the world also observe harvest festivals and the offering of thanks to the Hand of Providence.

A Timely Reminder

The season of harvest and ingathering serves as a timely reminder of how much we depend upon God for our every-day needs. We are stirred also to renew our gratitude to our Heavenly Father who gives so freely and liberally to the human family.

Here in America, we are indeed fortunate in that our crops continue to be bountiful. It has been reported that the current harvest marks the fifth consecutive record harvest. As a result, American farm exports are expected to total \$28 billion.

As we observe another national day of thanksgiving, may we also pause to note the plight of many people in the underprivileged areas of the world.

Many Underfed and Undernourished

Recently, this was also stressed by U.S. Agriculture Secretary, Bob Bergland, in answer to the question, "Has the world food supply improved?" He said, "Statistically speaking, the world food supply is in good shape. Grain production this year will be the largest ever." However, he added that this would be meaningless to fully one-fourth of the world's population — about one billion people — who are underfed and undernourished. He concluded, "The U.S., which holds 40 percent of the world's grain supply is pressing for a system of international food reserves."

Secretary Bergland's remarks were echoed in Rome, where the 35-nation World Food Council convened recently. In preparing studies for its annual meeting in Ottawa, the Council released stark figures in its efforts to end world hunger:

More than 1 billion persons do not get enough to eat to meet their energy, or calorie, requirements.

More than 450 million suffer from "serious undernutrition."

At least 250,000 children go blind each year because of vitamin A deficiency.

The council is expected to renew its appeal for immediate action on a world grain reserve program. Additionally, Maurice J. Williams, the council's executive director, has recommended that the Ottawa session undertake a program to improve food distribution to isolated populations within poor countries.

As we give thanks, let us also pray that God will bless and inspire the World Food Council in its efforts to reach out to the underprivileged wherever they are.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Suffer the Little Children

Dear Girls and Boys,

All through Jesus' ministry, as he traveled from place to place, people brought their loved ones to Him. He laid His hands upon them and whatsoever blessing was needed He bestowed upon them.

One day a large group of people surrounded Jesus, mothers with their tiny babies and little children were in this crowd. They tried to push through the crowd so that He might touch their little ones. The disciples tried to stop the mothers. Jesus looked up and saw this. He was displeased and said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Then, "He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them." How happy these mothers were as they heard Jesus praying to His Father in heaven for their children.

In our Church, our ministers pray to the Father for our children that He will watch over them throughout their lives, protect them from harm and danger, and keep their feet in the straight and narrow way that will lead them at least to heaven. Were you blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ when you were small? Do you know who blessed you? If so, you know there is a little voice within you that helps you along life's pathway.

When Jesus was about a month old, His parents took Him to the temple to be blessed or presented to the Lord. In the temple was an old man named Simeon. He knew Jesus was a holy child. He held baby Jesus in his arms and asked God's blessing upon Him. Then he blessed Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus. The Lord was pleased with this and is pleased when we also follow this example. Aren't you glad you know all these things and that our Church follows closely all the teachings of Jesus? This is one of the things you can give thanks for along with many other blessings.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,

who also do no wrong,

but walk in his ways!

—Psalm 119:1,2,3

Our Women Today:

THE LADIES UPLIFT CIRCLE CONFERENCE

The General Ladies Uplift Circle Conference was held at Imperial, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1979. There were Sisters present from Canada, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Sisters from the Imperial Circle sang songs that were composed by Sister Arlene Buffington and read verses from the Bible pertaining to the last days. Sister Mabel Bickerton related that there were two Circles organized sixty years ago and now there are thirty-nine... we are blessed when we are used by the Lord.

Most of the officers were present and the minutes of the last Conference held at Greensburg, Pennsylvania were accepted as read. The report of the different Circles was read. The projects of sending layettes to the Indian Reservations and sacrament cloths to Africa were accomplished.

The question, "Who laid traps and snares to catch the holy ones of God?", was found in *The Book of Mormon*, Alma 10:17, and "What man became dumb and helpless and had to be carried unto his father when he beheld an angel?", was found in *The Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 27:18,19.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sisters Elizabeth Davidson, Rose Sirangelo and Brother Larry Ali.

Donations were made to Africa Relief, General Church and General Church Indian Missionary Funds.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio who recently returned from Africa spoke to the Sisters and thanked God for the Ladies Circles. She feels the Circle really helps the work in Africa which must be kept going. She thanked everyone for their support and prayers.

The next General Circle Conference will be held at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on March 22, 1980.

A vote of thanks was given to the Imperial Circle for their hospitality.

Mary Tamburrino
General Circle Editor

GENERAL CHURCH DIRECTORY PRINTED

The General Church Directory will be printed in January, 1980. Anyone who has a change of address and/or telephone number, please send the correction to:

Mr. Alex Gentile
8011 Schneider Road
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Thank you for your cooperation.

Brother John Ross, Jr.
Directory Committee

MBA HIGHLIGHTS . . .**PENNSYLVANIA AREA MBA
CONFERENCE**

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held its conference on September 22, 1979 at Monongahela. Representatives from the Aliquippa, Fredonia, Glassport, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, Roscoe and Vanderbilt locals were in attendance. We were blessed by the manner in which our business was conducted. The highlights of the day's activities were the election of officers and the setting of dates for the upcoming year's events.

Our new officers included the following:

President: Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., Monongahela

Vice President: Brother Jonathan Olexa, Roscoe

Chaplain: Brother Richard Scaglione, Monongahela

Secretary: Sister Chris Collins, Monongahela

Assistant Sec.: Sister Denise Fleming, Vanderbilt

Editor: Sister Karen Progar, Aliquippa

Historian: Brother David DeLuca, Aliquippa

Those officers re-elected were as follows:

Treasurer: Brother Alvin Gehly, Fredonia

Auditors: Richard Scaglione, Jr., Monongahela;

Barbara Fleming, Vanderbilt.

We were all pleased by an increase of interest in the events of the Area, and we trust that God will bless our officers as they undertake their responsibilities for this year. An experience was had in regard to Brother Bob's election as President, in that when Sister Elizabeth Staley was wondering who would be the next Area President, Bobby Nicklow's face appeared to her. We took this as a confirmation of his election.

Area MBA members should make note of the following Area events and make every effort to be there and support the Area:

Seminar Days:

November 3, 1979 at Roscoe beginning at 10:00 A.M.

May 3, 1980 at Aliquippa beginning at 10:00 A.M.

Spiritual Meetings:

The spiritual meetings for this year will be held at Glassport and McKees Rocks, with the dates to be set by the locals and announced later.

Area MBA Conference:

Sept. 13, 1980 at Fredonia beginning at 10:00 A.M.

Area Outing:

August, 1980

Area Campout:

The Area Campout is tentatively set up for Labor Day Weekend of 1980 at either Laurelville or Jamonville, depending on camp availability. Brother Walter Laird was elected Camp Director for the camp.

On behalf of the Area, I wish to express the gratitude of the MBA members to all the officers who served the Area so well in the past year.

Sister Karen Progar
Pennsylvania AREA MBA Editor

LOCAL MBA NEWS

By Brother Ryan Ross
Assistant GMBA Editor

So you want to know what everyone else is doing in their local MBA? In Aliquippa, where the local MBA is under the auspices of President Brother Dave DeLuca, this summer has been anything but inactive! According to their local secretary, Sister Marty Jumper, the young people got together at the end of June and had a car wash to raise funds for the GMBA Special Project Fund. To promote togetherness, hot dogs and fresh rolls were combined in July,, which made for a relaxing evening with Brothers, Sisters and friends. The young people did quite a bit of visiting also. They travelled to Detroit, Imperial, McKees Rocks, an Ohio singspiration and to Cedar Point Amusement Park, to mention a few places.

Also, Branch No. 3, Detroit MBA local kept quite busy this summer. They have succeeded in raising over one thousand dollars for missionary efforts in Africa. How did they do it? With preparation and determination! They held a garage sale, and obviously, it was a tremendous success! Our thanks to Sister Kathy Pastorelli for letting us in on what Branch No. 3 is doing as an MBA local.

Thought for the month to those area and local MBA presidents who are concerned about the lack of attendance or activity: **POSITIVE THINKING COMES IN CANS, NOT IN CANNOTS!**

For those MBA secretaries who have not received a letter from me about this column, please drop me a line and I'll let you know what we're trying to do. Let's work together to boost our local MBA's so we can become a Greater MBA!

Ryan Ross
2033 Finch Drive
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-638-3357

MIAMI MBA NEWS

The Miami MBA local has been enjoying very good meetings as we take turns meeting in various homes. Our lessons have been conducted by Brother Alvin Swanson on the three Jerusalems:

1. Located in Israel where God sent His Son to the world.
2. New Jerusalem will be built by the Seed of Joseph and we will assist them.
3. New Heaven and New Earth John saw coming down in *Revelations, Chapter 21*

We also have a fund raising project going on now. We are selling pictures from 1979 GMBA Campout in Massanetta Springs, Virginia. Seminar group pictures and baptism pictures were taken by Brother George Katsaras.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother James Sheffler, is recuperating from his recent eye surgery. We pray that his eyesight will be restored fully.

We also were particularly blessed to have Brother Joseph Lovalvo visit our MBA on his return trip from

Argentina. We are thankful for the Miami Airport, for we get to see many of our Church people travelling to and fro. Brother Lovalvo gave us a very inspiring talk on the many experiences during his life and his travels on missionary work. Even when the meeting ended, we would not let him leave until almost midnight. We also enjoyed visiting with his wife, Sister Virginia.

We thank God for His many blessings each day of our lives. Our membership in Miami is small, but our blessings are great. Please pray that we may grow in numbers.

Sister Eileen Katsaras,
MBA Editor

District Conferences . . .

Arizona District Conference

The members of the Arizona District traveled to the pine country of the White Mountains of Arizona to meet at the Lakeside Branch for the August Conference. There was a good representation of ministers from the District as well as visiting Officers and members from the California District. Some of these welcome visitors included Apostles Joseph and James Lovalvo; Evangelists George Heaps, Tom Liberto, and Mark Randy; and Elders Clarence Kirkpatrick and Paul Liberto. All of those in attendance were welcomed and led in business by the District President, Brother Richard Christman, and the Counselors, Brothers Pat Marinetti and Isaac Smith. The business of the Church was conducted with unity and peace with the goals of the Church always first and foremost.

The evening service was opened with prayer by Brother Kirkpatrick. The Choir of the Red Lake Branch sang a medley of hymns followed by a solo, "Fill My Cup", by Brother Jim Lovalvo. The majority of the meeting was spent in filling our cups by the Brothers from California as they rehearsed to us the Glory of God which was experienced in their midst at their Campout. Words here cannot express the fact that we also felt a portion of that same blessing as we heard of the visitations, healings, rededications, and a myriad of other spiritual experiences which are promised to the Church.

Ministers and members of the Arizona District also desired to make a pilgrimage to the rostrum to seek spiritual strength and to rededicate their lives to the service of God and the eternal promise they made at the waters' edge. During this time of anointing, one Brother saw Joseph embrace someone and kiss him. The gifts of tongues were spoken as a Brother was preaching that only we, The Church of Jesus Christ, would bring the pure and unadulterated Gospel to the House of Israel. The interpretation of tongues confirmed this statement saying, "No one else will go, No one else, nobody else." Several had this interpretation and one Brother stated in testimony that he had had some doubts about the validity of this gift until he too received the gift of interpretation this time. Brother Mark Randy was anointed because of his ill health and testified following the prayer that he felt rested and restored near the close of the meeting. Brother Heaps spoke that in the Church it is not the usual custom to anoint with oil like this but stated, "I

believe that a special work is starting, each one that is being anointed is being set aside for a special work." One Sister had a vision seeing Christ's arms stretched out saying, "I am the Good Shepherd, Come unto Me and I will give you rest." Another Brother saw the heavens open and saw Brothers Cadman, Ashton, Furnier, and Cherry and said that he felt God was allowing them to witness what is happening in our midst. At 11:30 p.m., we sang hymn 271, "God Be With You" and the meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Harry "Skip" Smith of the host Branch.

Everyone gathered promptly on Sunday morning filling to a greater part the auditorium of the local high school and expecting a continuance of the blessings which overflowed until we could no longer contain them. The piece of music "Lord Teach Me To Wait" was sung and Brother Dick Christman acknowledged that the Lord was directing us because he was prepared to read from the scriptures "Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Brother John and Sister Chris Mancini presented their new son to be blessed and Brother Peter Capone followed with a message that we are the branches and Jesus is the true vine. He drew the conclusion that the Saints cannot bear fruit without Christ. Following this, other ministers also were anointed in rededication and this brought a consensus of all of the ministers in attendance. Others spoke of their experiences in feeling a renewed desire to serve God. Brother Joe Lovalvo said that God never forces His will. God does the impossible to show His great power, and spoke about the restoration of the Gospel. Brother Jim Lovalvo spoke comparing the attitude of the Brother of Jared to our modern day Church. The Brother of Jared became satisfied in the Land Bountiful and possibly mistakenly felt he was in the promised land and did not call upon the Lord for further direction to the Promised Land. He admonished the Priesthood and the membership to continue to pray to God for guidance and not be satisfied. Brother Jim reminded us that God has been opening up our minds increasingly to His Will and Purposes for His Church since the year 1970.

Brother Christman brought the meeting to a close. We thanked the members of the Lakeside Branch for their hospitality and the visitors from California added invaluable to the blessings which we received during this glorious weekend conference. May the Lord continue to bestow His benign countenance upon all of those who seek to serve Him in Spirit and Truth.

Brother Ronald Brutz
Arizona District Editor

Thou hast commanded thy precepts
to be kept diligently.

O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping thy statutes!

Then shall I not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all thy commandments.

—Psalm 119:4,5,6

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

News from Niles, Ohio Branch

On Sunday, July 29, 1979 Margaret Joyce Petrella was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Russ Martorana and was confirmed by Brother Bob Ciarrochi. Sister Joyce had many beautiful experiences before coming into the Church. On Saturday evening, July 28, we had our Ohio Area MBA business meeting which was truly enjoyable and the spirit of God was felt by all. After the meeting was over, Joyce asked to be baptized.

Brother Russ Martorana opened our service on Sunday and he spoke on what we must do so that we don't become involved with the things of this world, so that the Lord can become our personal friend. Brother Bob Ciarrochi followed and he spoke on baptism in the time of Nephi. We then departed for the baptismal site. In the testimony service that followed, Brother Joel Calabrese sang "My Tribute", (To God Be The Glory). A wonderful day was spent in the Lord.

On Sunday, August 5, we were privileged to have Brother John Manes and his family and Brother Paul Ciotti and his wife, Sister Anna from McKees Rocks, Pa. Brother John opened the morning service by reading from 1 Nephi 17:13. He elaborated on God being the light of the world and if we walk with him we shall never be in darkness. In our afternoon service we heard many beautiful testimonies. We then sang "Learning to Lean" and Brother Paul Ciotti arose in the spirit of God and spoke these words, "Thus saith the Lord, If my people will lean on me I will bless them, I will give you power, I will give you light..."

All our Brothers and Sisters went home rejoicing.

Sister Wanda Pandone
Branch Editor

McKees Rocks Branch News

June 24, we enjoyed our visiting Brother and Sister Bittinger. The word of life spoken to us was taken from 17th chapter of St. John. What can be said but, "Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ." May God bless His Church in these trying times.

July 1, we rejoiced to have Brother Austin in our midst. The message was directed from the Lord, for our Brother received direction in a revelation to come to McKees Rocks. In the Book of Mormon, Lehi found the ball of brass which gave them direction if the people kept the commandments of God. We were reminded to give heed to God's word found in the Holy Scriptures. The Lord God of Israel speaks, "If you will let me, I will guide you." We must ask God in prayer for direction. Brother Lawson left this question with us. "What is the advantage in seeking God's direction, and in following when the Lord does answer?"

July 8, we again rejoiced to have Brother and Sister Frank Giovannone and father with us. Much was spoken on the wonderful works of God. How the Lord does strengthen His people. Restoration was much of theme. Daniel's vision of the Everlasting Kingdom was also

brought to our attention. May God bless each and every one who loves the Lord is our prayer in Jesus' Holy Name. Amen.

July 22, 1979, we were favoured of the Lord to have Brother and Sister Paul Palmieri from Aliquippa Branch of The Church in our midst here in McKees Rocks.

Our Brother spoke of the kingdom of God being like a small mustard seed which grows to have branches so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. He read and expounded further of Jesus going into a ship and other ships too were with Him. A storm came up, waves beat into the ship so it was full. Jesus was asleep. They awakened Him. He spoke, "Peace, be still." All became calm. No more storm. Praise God.

McKees Rocks Elders cautioned us to stay in the ship. Taken from 4th chapter of Mark. Tongues were spoken by Brother Paul Ciotti affirming the Lord's presence in our midst and His pleasure in the words that were spoken.

On Sunday, July 29, 1979, we enjoyed our visitors Brother George and Sister Margaret Johnson, Sister Ruth Kirschner, and Sister Harriet Byers.

Brother Johnson took his message from First John, Fifth Chapter. He explained to us how the Spirit beareth witness that Jesus is the Son of God. The seventh and eighth verses say, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these agree in one."

Then the question was asked, "Do we want to serve a God who changes? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Our Brother also brought forth from the Fifty-second Chapter of Isaiah.

As I close this small article the hymn "Now Let Us Rejoice" comes to my heart.

May God bless each and everyone is our prayer in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Sister Martha Laird
Branch Editor

Visitors At Rochester

On Sunday, August 5, 1979, the Rochester, New York Branch had the joy of having Brother and Sister Patsy Marinetti and Sister Grace Francione from Tucson, Arizona; Brother and Sister Mervin Heath and Sister Ruth Braendle from Detroit, Michigan; and Brother and Sister Carmine Rossi from Aliquippa, Pa. visiting with us.

Brother Patsy chose for his text *Isaiah, Chapter 11*, which speaks of Christ's peaceable kingdom. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse..." Through Abraham, all the nations of the world would be blessed. Brother Patsy noted that God is the same today and will be forever.

Brother Ansel D'Amico, our next speaker, spoke on the same subject and also about the calling of Isaiah. He mentioned that God touched the tongue of the prophet with coals of fire, and he was to go forward and preach to the people. Jesus was given the spirit and power, with-

out measure, to heal and to forgive. Brother Ansel stressed that we should all be determined to press forward to the mark of eternal perfection. We should also advocate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the children of men.

After singing "Speak My Lord," the meeting was opened for testimony, and a wonderful spirit prevailed. Brother Carmine Rossi offered the closing prayer.

Sister Carmella D'Amico
Branch Editor,

Vanderbilt Branch News

July 1, 1979, was a blessed day for the Vanderbilt Branch. We had the privilege of having the Greensburg Branch down for a joint meeting. Brother Paul Gehly opened our meeting with prayer and led our morning worship meeting. The theme of the meeting was repentance and baptism. The Brothers spoke well on the Law of Christ and we all should follow it. At lunch time we all had fellowship one with another, the pouring rain outside didn't bother the sunshine of the Saints inside. In the afternoon meeting, we all were blessed in each others thanks and testimonies to the Lord.

We all had a beautiful time with the Saints from Greensburg. We invite them back to Vanderbilt and we hope it will be real soon!

Everyone at Vanderbilt received a blessing July 15, 1979, as we had a visitor from California, Brother Harry Marshall.

Brother Harry opened our meeting speaking on the angel that flew in the midst of heaven bringing back the everlasting Gospel. He then continued with the Hymn, "An Angel Came Down." As the Spirit of the Lord fell upon Brother Harry, he spoke of how we should take care of the Gospel of Jesus Christ after He gave it back to us. As we went into our testimony meeting, all were filled with thanks to The Lord our God.

We all had a blessed and educational time with Brother Harry. We all pray that God will continue to bless and keep Brother Harry on his journey home.

GOB BLESS YOU ALL
Sister Rose Czapp
Editor

News From Youngstown, Ohio

On Sunday, September 23, 1979, Youngstown welcomed the Aliquippa Branch in our midst. We also had visiting with us Brothers Dominic Rose, August D'Orazio and Joseph Arcuri of the Atlantic Coast District and some of the Saints from Imperial.

Brother Dominic Rose opened the morning service by using *II Nephi*, 31:14-21 as his text. He stressed that we should be living examples to the world. Christ must be the center of our lives. We have the greatest treasure of all, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Rose urged us not to let go of it.

We then had the pleasure of hearing the Aliquippa Quartet sing "My Tribute" (To God Be the Glory), which was enjoyed by all.

Brother August D'Orazio followed, stating that it is our responsibility to all mankind to try and tell others that they might have the liberty that we have found in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother D'Orazio related several experiences which were quite edifying.

After the Youngstown Quartet sang several selections, the morning service was closed in prayer by Brother Joseph Ross. We then retired to the basement for a light luncheon buffet.

During our afternoon meeting, the Youngstown Choir, under the direction of Sister Amy Cook, sang a medley of hymns. We were reminded of how the Gospel came to the Aliquippa Branch through the Youngstown Branch. The gift of tongues was spoken by Brother A. A. Corrado, and although the interpretation was not given, a good feeling still prevailed.

We want to thank the Aliquippa Branch for making an effort to visit us. May God continue to bless them in their service to Him.

Two weeks later, on Sunday, October 7, we were happy to see Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti, who had returned from Italy on September 25. They were thankful for their safe trip and to be back in the land of Joseph. May God reward them for their efforts.

Sister Annette Corrado,
Youngstown Branch Editor

Three Baptisms In Imperial Branch

After enjoying the Pa. District Conference we in Imperial had our usual Sunday night meeting. The young people started singing at 7:00 p.m. We had visitors from Niles, Ohio, McKees Rocks, and Aliquippa. Brother Bob Buffington opened and used Alma, Chapter 36 as his text which led to many experiences had by individuals of this Church. Brother Jimmy Moore followed. Several testified. After Sister Mary Lou Buffington testified Brother Paul Ciotti related later of hearing a voice saying, "I hear the prayers of this people — but I answer the prayers of the faithful." Sister Jan Painter has many health problems and wished to be anointed but is very backward. She felt if only someone else would ask to be anointed she would follow, and she felt the Lord had heard her plea and answered it. There was such love and compassion felt. After these anointings a young man, Timothy Tarbuk, who has been attending our Branch for several months asked for the Elders to lay hands on him for strength to make a decision for the Lord. After he was prayed for he immediately asked for his baptism. The word of the Lord came forth by Brother Paul Ciotti. "My child, I have directed you unto the fountain of living waters, and brought you to a place where you can feast upon my words. If you will humble yourself and be obedient unto my commandments, I will bless you and I will give unto you eternal life. Be humble my child and serve me and I will bless you, saith the Lord." Then Teresa Kroscko broke down and cried out, "I want to be baptized." The Power of God came down upon Brother Brian Mortarana and he testified the Lord had spoken to him earlier (7:00 p.m.) and said, "Call Teresa up to sing, for today is the day of her baptism." Then Tim Tarbuk testified about having a dream where he saw a girl in a white robe ready to be baptized before him.

We felt heaven came down and glory filled our souls. We went to the waters of baptism at 9:30 p.m. It was dark with only truck lights for direction. All the Brothers and Sisters waded thru wet grass to get to the waters, singing and rejoicing because our fasting and prayers are being answered. Brother James Moore, Sr. baptized Teresa; she is 16 years old and Brother Buffington baptized Tim Tarbuk, he is 23 years old. We returned to the church. While Brother Jimmy Moore was laying on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost on our Sister Teresa the gift of tongues was spoken. We felt it was confirming the gift of the Holy Ghost. Brother Tim was confirmed by Brother James Moore, Sr. Our meeting continued with testimony until 11:00 p.m. Thank God we had a taste of heaven.

The following Sunday we had another baptism. Edna Corrado; she is 15 years old. This young girl never forgot the healing she received when she was a little girl. Sister Edna was baptized by Brother Bob Buffington and confirmed by Brother George Ondrasik.

Branch No. 2 and Sterling Heights Meet

As our Sunday service began, we had with us Brothers Joseph Lovalvo of California, Frank Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio, Anthony Lovalvo of Branch No. 4 and Louis Vitto of Sterling Heights as our visiting ministry. Along with the many members from the Sterling Heights Branch, we also noted other visitors from Lorain, Branch No. 4 and Glassport, Pa. Brother Vitto led the congregation in some community singing which was followed by an inspiring selection from the Champine brothers. The song, "I Owe It All to Jesus", was composed by Brother Larry Champine.

Brother Joe Lovalvo led us in opening prayer. He chose his text from Exodus 33:18-23. In relation to this Scripture, he spoke very highly of Moses. He reminded us of the time God told Moses to stand on the Rock and He would hide him in the cleft of that Rock. Bringing us back to the time of Moses' desire to see the Lord, Brother Joe compared this desire to man today. This desire is an admirable one because many believers, as well as non-believers, had their lives changed when they saw the Lord. Man has always had to deal with the problem of not believing in God through faith alone. In a way this is sad. Brother Joe feels that each of us should have the desire to display the face of God by our daily activities. We each can project His light to the world and God will continue to show His glory through our people.

Brother Joe also told of some experiences he had encountered in his work at Red Lake that were relative to Moses' experience with God. In his closing remarks, as he turned to look at the ministry present, Brother Joe said, "He sees glory and authority in these Brothers." His prayer is that we would all remain in the cleft of that Rock.

After we sang "In the Garden," Brother Frank Calabrese spoke. He feels that unless the world can see the image of God in us, there is something missing within us. As we walk the face of this earth, we know there is someone who is hungry and thirsty for God's Gospel and through us they can enter into the harbor. As the writer penned the hymn, "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," we, the lower lights, must remain burning. The world

needs to be brought to this safe harbor. We must exercise our faith in God and as our lights are burning, someone will find a haven of rest. Let us remember God has called us to be a peculiar people. Let God direct our lives, let Him speak to us and let us follow His voice.

The Champine brothers sang "He Touched Me" and our Brothers served sacrament. Brother Reno Bologna then offered the closing prayer.

After our service, we gathered together and were served a delicious dinner prepared by our Sisters. Many Brothers then gathered around the table with Brother Joe Lovalvo and he shared with them many of his experiences. There was such a beautiful feeling of unity with the Spirit of God present. We began to sing "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" as we formed a circle with the closing prayer offered by Brother Joe Milantoni.

We can truly thank God for the times the Saints meet and each time they do, He richly blesses them. May God continue to be with each of you.

Sisters Janet Buffa and
Leona Buffa
Branch No. 2

San Fernando Valley Branch News

On Sunday, August 5, 1979, we were blessed by having Brother Tony Ensana and his wife visiting from Ft. Pierce, Florida. Also in our midst were Brothers and Sisters from Michigan, San Diego and Ohio. Brother Tony read from *III Nephi*. He spoke of the condition of our Church today and how through unity, we will receive God's blessings. He stressed the importance of holding fast to our principles and not bending to the ways of the world.

Brother Edmond Buccellato followed by reading *Luke, Chapter 24* and stressing the importance of making an effort to enter back into fellowship with God. Sister Alyse Molisani sang, "Then Jesus Came."

Brother John Genaro, visiting from Ohio, began the testimony service by relating a dream he had where he was in a ring wrestling with a person bigger and more qualified than he. He said we must all enter the arena and wrestle the evil one, unafraid to fight for our Church. A chain of glorious testimonies followed.

Brother Bill Lotgering gave a beautiful testimony and asked to be reinstated in The Church. Brother Joe Krasnasky asked to be anointed for a bad back and direction in his job. Two weeks prior, Brother Joe Krasnasky was anointed for strength, and while Brother Frank Genaro was preaching, Sister Joy Krasnasky saw a light over his head spreading down on him and extending to the floor. These words came to her, "changed in a twinkling of an eye."

As our Elders finished anointing our Brothers, little Michael Buccellato, who is afflicted with a serious illness, went forward, extending his hand and asked why he was not being anointed anymore. The Elders anointed him, and a spirit of rededication fell upon us. Mike King asked to be anointed so that he may be reinstated soon. Brother and Sister DeCaro from San Diego asked to be anointed for direction. Their desire is to work for the Lord, and they want the Lord to show them where they must go.

Brother Robert Duncan was in a lot of pain with a bad back rose and was reinstated. After the anointing was able to kneel for Communion. Many testimonies followed, and more people

Our Branch is in a good way. Truly, the Lord has not forsaken us, and our prayers for our members that have wandered are slowly being answered. Thank God! We know it's not an easy road and are determined to fight to be united and above all, to love one another as Christ loves each of us. Our desire is to grow in the Lord.

On June 16, Louise Grace King and Robert DeCarlo were united in marriage. Louise is the daughter of Sister Grace King.

On June 30, Debra Lyn Thomas and Frank Verardo, Jr., were united in marriage by Brother Frank Verardo, Sr. Sister Kay Daniels provided the musical accompaniment.

On Sunday, June 31, one of our Mexican visitors had their baby blessed, baby John Soto, Jr. The grandparents are members of our Church in Tijuana, Mexico.

Please remember our Branch. We have been having some visitors attending our meetings, and we pray that our empty seats will soon be full. May the Lord bless you all.

Sister Virginia Surprenant, Editor
Sister Kay Daniels, Asst. Editor

GREAT SPIRIT, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.

—Indian Prayer

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

John Anthony II to John and Karen Buffa of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Peter Andrew to William and Janet Buffa of Branch No. 2, Detroit, Michigan; and

Colleen Joy to Timothy and Brenda Capone of Branch No. 3, Detroit, Michigan.

— WEDDINGS —

FORSTER - DiBATTISTA

Mr. Bruce Forster and Miss Deborah Lynne DiBattista were united in holy matrimony on September 7, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Sterling Heights, Mich.

The bride's cousin, Brother John Griffith, officiated at the ceremony, and he was assisted by the bride's uncle, Brother Louis Pietrangelo. Musical selections were presented by soloist, Brother Steve Champine and organist, Brother Eugene Amormino.

The Forsters are making their home in Roseville, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

ILARIO (LARRY) ALI

Brother Larry Ali, a member of the Glassport Branch, passed away on August 10, 1979. He was born on November 27, 1896 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 2, 1929. He was ordained a Teacher in The Church on October 15, 1939.

Survivors are his widow, Sister Rose Patello Ali, seven children, two stepsons, twenty grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Brother David Nolfi conducted the funeral services and was assisted by Brother Dan Casasanta.

Brother Larry, a faithful servant for fifty years, will be missed by the Brothers, Sisters and friends of the Glassport Branch.

LYDIA ALLEN

Sister Lydia Allen of Washington, D.C., recently from Miami, Florida, departed from this life on October 1, 1979. She was born on June 1, 1890 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 2, 1911.

She is survived by her son, Alvin Swanson, two sisters, Della Day and Esther Andrews, one brother, James Curry, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Brother Joseph Lovalvo. We pray that God will bless and comfort the family.

NEPHI SANTILLI

Brother Nephi Santilli died suddenly on October 2, 1979. He was born on July 6, 1931. He was baptized on January 13, 1957, ordained a Deacon on March 21, 1964 and then a Teacher on August 11, 1974.

Brother A. A. Corrado officiated at the funeral service, assisted by Brothers Rocco Biscotti, Ralph Berardino, Tullio LaCivita and Elmer Santilli.

Left to mourn are his wife, Sister Ruth, his mother, four brothers, two sisters and two daughters.

Brother Nephi was very active and faithful in his service to God and will be greatly missed by his family and the Saints of the Youngstown Branch.

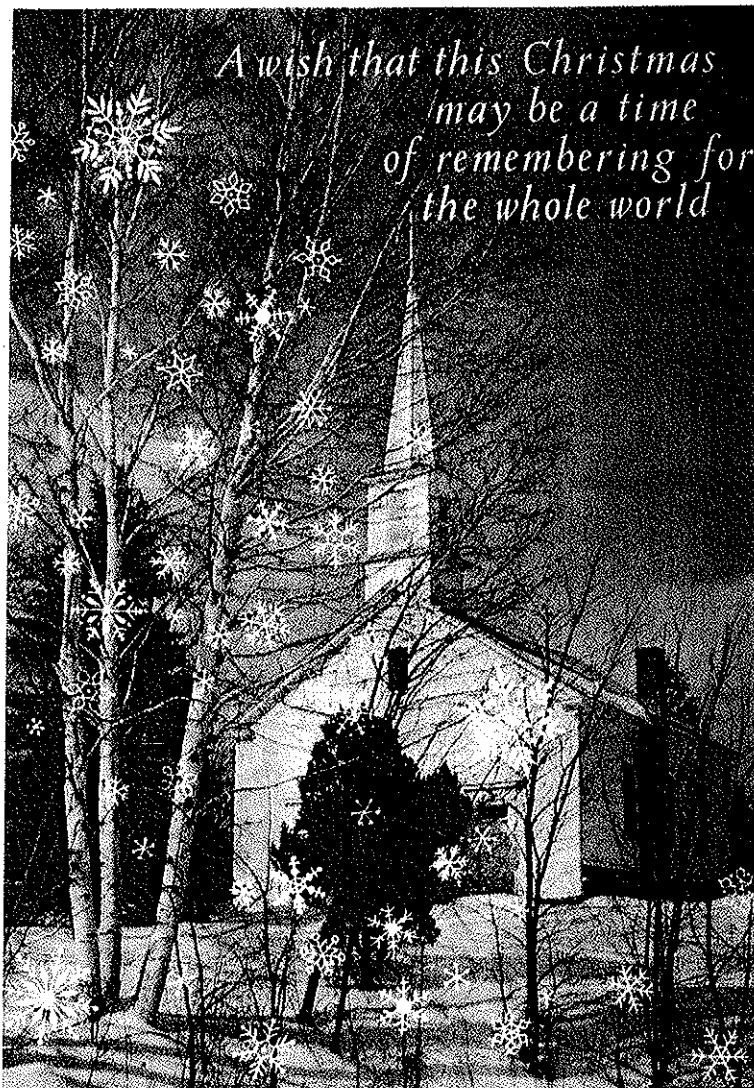
The GOSPEL NEWS

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*A wish that this Christmas
may be a time
of remembering for
the whole world*

*Have a
Merry Christmas*



*...a time of understanding
and sharing of the love
He gave to us.*

FROM THE
GOSPEL NEWS STAFF

THE MAN WHO NEVER LOST HOPE



Born of a mother who dared the king and his laws of death and destruction. She skillfully hid her pregnancy and worked in the fields as usual so the taskmasters would not be able to detect her expectancy. Was so much in love with her young husband to dare and suffer all things.

When the time came for her to be delivered, it was a day as any other day, hid her pain and everything that comes with childbearing. But as time went by, she could no longer hide this so well-kept secret. Her family was an order of firm behavior; her husband must have been a man of men as he permitted her industrious deeds of hope, faith and love in the God of their fathers.

Three long months was this secret kept, as she loved this goodly child. Her prayers with much groaning continued daily, unceasingly, until one day, her mind was inspired to make an ark out of bulrushes and daubed it with slime and with pitch and put the goodly child therein, and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink and left her daughter to watch from far off, instructing her what to do. Again she prayed as she left the child in the care of the God she trusted.

All of this was not a casual good luck or an accident. It was the product of hope, faith and love. She did all she knew within her soul and prayed for God to do His part to spare this goodly child.

As the history goes, he grew in the house of Pharaoh as a prince, but nurtured by his brave mother who often reminded him that he was an Israelite and he was not to forget his people when the time would come.

These might have been her words. Moses, my son, who knows that you have been brought in this house to set your brethren free? Learn all the laws of Egypt, their ways and be obedient in all of the commands of the king. Gain their respect and one day, the God of Israel will use you to set our people free, and many like instructions she must have given him.

Moses grew in the favor of the house of Pharaoh and in the favor of his God. He learned to pray to his God and trust in Him very early in his life. He longed for the day when his people would be free. But what he did not know, that now was the time, and that he himself had to be made ready and fit for the task.

He would not be able to do this in the house of Pharaoh, so there came the occasion where he had to flee from Egypt into the land of Midian. There he married the High Priest's daughter. He found favor in the household of his father-in-law. But the living hope within his bosom never found rest. As he grazed his sheep, he often would look toward the land of Egypt; often would he raise his hands to the sky pleading to his God, "Will you now restore Israel out of the land of bondage?" This plea went on daily with greater earnestness each passing day, as he could not give up the hope. He was taught by his mother, "Your hope, your faith in the God of Israel must never, never give up.

He is the living God of our people. He will set us free by your hand or some other. But you must never, never lose this hope. Let that be deep in your mind and soul, my child. Let it grow within you, and you will see it come to pass." It was with this growing hope and firm faith that Moses pleaded daily with hands raised to God.

Though eighty years of his life had passed, yet that hope lived on until one day, he pleaded with the vigor of his soul, no longer that he be the liberator, but someone else, for he felt weak, old and lost the art of speech as he spoke to his sheep. But he must have kept himself informed by travelers as to the fate of his people in Egypt. Conditions had worsened, and no deliverer yet. He pleaded with a loud cry, "My God, My Lord, God of my fathers, won't you forgive us and send us a deliverer to set Your people free?" It was this day that his eyes, though filled with anguish and tears, saw the burning bush and drew near it until he heard the immortal words, "Moses, Moses ... Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

Is this hope within you today? Are you beset, offended or discouraged? You have prayed and yet see no answer? Eighty long years this Moses prayed. It was worth all the anguish of his soul. It will be also for you if you keep this living hope within you.

Whatever your problem, God knows. Trust Him wholly, and you will see miracles in your life. Try this firm hope. It works.

May God grant you peace. May He smile upon you today.

Ever in Christ,
Mark Randy

READERS PLEASE NOTE

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The Editor

GMBA ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE TO MEET

The CMBA Activities Committee will meet on Saturday, January 19, 1980 at the Erie, Pennsylvania Mission at 10:00A.M. promptly. An evening spiritual meeting sponsored by the MBA will be held that same evening at the Erie Mission beginning at 6:30 P.M. All are welcome to attend.

Anyone attending the Activities Committee meeting who may need accommodations, please contact Brother Mark Kovacic.

60 YEARS IN THE GOSPEL MAKES LIFE WORTHWHILE



December 14th marks the sixtieth year in The Church of Jesus Christ for our beloved Sister-in Christ, Minnie DePiero. She was 13 years old back in 1919 when Brother Pete Garafolo immersed her beneath the liquid wave, along with her father. Her mother was baptized the next day, December 15th.

As the years passed, Sister Minnie found the Gospel her comfort and her stay. One of her most vivid recollections is of Brother Alexander Cherry and his white beard. She says her first glimpse of Brother Cherry made her think she was in the presence of the Lord Himself!

Sister Minnie has always been very active in Church gatherings. She has supported the Sunday School, Ladies Uplift Circle and MBA avidly, always ready to assume a new task — always ready to travel many miles for a visit or a meeting. And I know there must have been countless hundreds of Brothers and Sisters who found rest and the spirit of love in her home.

She has been an inspiration to many on this road of life, and there are many things that would have remained undone had she not been there to take the lead. She has two children, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. "Sister Minnie, continue to held fast to the promise of eternity with Jesus. It's been a long road; but He has walked beside you all the way."

Sister Mary Santilli

A RIGHT SPIRIT

Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me".

These are the words spoken by a King after being caught in a great coverup. An ordinary King wouldn't have to write this way because he could take what he pleased and none had the right to question him. But David was different. There was something about his ways that made him a man after God's own heart. A person willing to humble himself in the depths of humility and willing to cry to God for a "Right Spirit".

We need more Davids today. Men who are willing to cry in prayer for a clean heart and a right spirit, men not afraid of being embarrassed for their folly and willing to stand for the truth no matter how it may hurt.

The beauty of salvation is found in repentance. That is because it cannot use the working of the first Adam or the carnal mind but a new, created, right spirit or a second Adam. We often have problems with this only because it is human to make ourselves look good in the presence of other people.

Nephi in his confession cries, "O then, if I have seen so great things, if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men hath visited men in so much mercy, why should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow and my flesh waste away". However, shortly afterward he states, "O Lord, I will praise thee forever; yea my soul will rejoice in thee, my God and the Rock of my salvation".

I suppose we could write endlessly on this subject for this is a key to unlock the door into eternal joy. A joy that is long-suffering and kind. A joy that is not puffed up or selfish. A joy that is true.

Therefore, let me cry, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me".

A HOLY KISS

Kiss, to touch with the lips in salutation or as a mark of affection; to touch gently as if with fondness. To join lips in love or respect, to meet or come in contact.

This affectionate act of love has existed from the very beginning with Adam and Eve. Throughout the span of time and even unto the end it will remain as a cherished salutation of love. The holy scriptures give various accounts of this act of kissing in all conditions from joy to sorrow, from departing to reuniting, from the depths of love and honour to the most infamous kiss of all, as Judas betrayed Jesus Christ.

Yet, the Apostle Paul gave commandment in his writings to salute one another with a holy kiss. This holy kiss we are admonished to give is not a custom or tradition, but it is the greeting and salutation of two holy vessels one to another motivated by the love and spirit of Jesus Christ that dwells within their hearts.

At many of the gatherings of the Saints when we see a Brother or a Sister whom we have not seen for a season of time we feel the love of Christ pounding within our breast as we anticipate greeting one another. Then how can we restrain from embracing one another with this salutation of a holy kiss and even shedding the tears of joy.

Let us not think that anything less than the touching of the lips is not a holy kiss. Many Saints offer their cheek in exchange to kiss yours. Gladly we will accept any portion of love that is offered. Remember, it is not how much another loves us that matters, but how much we love others; this is the commandment of love wherein is contained all the law and the holy prophets. What then of those Saints we see daily or weekly, shall we offer anything less than the holy kiss to them because we see them so frequently. No, by no means, but once again we are admonished to salute one another with this holy kiss, both young and old, bond and free, black and white. Even as we behold an infant child in its purity and innocence we desire to bestow a kiss upon this little angel. Can we then look upon our Brothers and Sisters with this same eye of love desiring to salute one another with that most holy kiss? Let us be obedient unto the admonishment of God's written word until that day when we can enter the portals of heaven, kneel before our Saviour and kiss the feet of Jesus Christ.

GENERAL CHURCH PRESIDENT, COUNSELORS, DISTRICT PRESIDENTS MEET IN DALLAS, TEXAS

When the Dallas members first heard, in May, that Brother Dominic Thomas would like to meet with his counselors and all the District presidents in Dallas, Texas, an unusual excitement filled our hearts knowing that we would have the opportunity to host such a meeting. However, because of our anticipation since May, time seemed to move very slowly. But, finally, Friday, September 14th was upon us and we gladly welcomed the following Brothers and Sister: Brothers: Dominic Thomas, Nick Pietrangelo, James Lovalvo, Leonard Lovalvo, Dick Christman, Joe Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, Alex Gentile, Matthew Rogolino, Patsy Marinetti, Rocco Biscotti and last of all but certainly not least, Brother Rocco's dear wife, Sister Angeline.

Since some of us have not seen each other for some time it was a pleasant reunion for all of us. We enjoyed visiting with each other on Friday evening in several of the homes throughout the Dallas area.

On Saturday morning, September 15th, our Brothers met for the first time in the new Dallas Church building. The morning session was opened in prayer by Brother Dominic Thomas and it was noticed by all how beautiful the singing was. As one Brother said, "Our Brothers sound like a heavenly choir." After completing many items of business, we stopped for a delicious lunch that was prepared by the Dallas Sisters. Business was resumed Saturday afternoon and the same Spirit that prevailed throughout the morning remained with us the rest of the day. The time went by very quickly but as Brother Dominic Thomas stated, much was accomplished throughout the day, even more than he expected.

After supper on Saturday evening, the meeting was left open for all the Brothers and Sisters to attend. We heard some beautiful singing by the Dallas choir, a duet by Brother Phil and Sister Linda Benyola, solos by Brothers Jim and Leonard Lovalvo, after which Brother Paul Palmieri opened our meeting as our first speaker. We had the opportunity to hear several other Brothers speak to us regarding many experiences they had throughout their years in the Church. The theme being, the fellowship and the Love of God among the Saints. It was spoken, how good it is to travel among the Saints of God and to meet souls that you never met before and feel like you've known them all of your life.

Brother Alex Gentile related a dream he had on Friday evening. He saw the Dallas church building and our meeting just as it was on Saturday night. He said he never saw the building before but when he saw it on Saturday, he knew it was what he saw in his dream. Everyone shared in the joy he felt in having this beautiful dream. As we all formed a circle hand in hand we were dismissed in prayer, no doubt, all of us realizing that a beautiful day had come to an end.

We all met again on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The Dallas choir sang three special selections for our visitors followed by a beautiful solo by Brother Leonard

Lovalvo. Brother Rocco Biscotti opened our meeting in prayer and Brother Matthew Rogolino introduced the service by using 2nd Timothy, 2nd Chapter, 21st Verse referencing the vessels of honor and dishonor. He stated how the elements of the vessel of honor will not change if we keep all the commandments of God. Brother Leonard Lovalvo followed elaborating on the same topic and also referring to the conversion of the Apostle Paul and how he was a chosen vessel of honor.

Brother Rocco Biscotti related a very interesting dream that he had over 20 years ago. He dreamed he was in the city of Dallas standing in a small Church building which was The Church of Jesus Christ and a small baby was presented to him. It was very impressive to know that 20 years later his dream became a reality. Perhaps the small baby represents the birth of The Church of Jesus Christ in this new Dallas area. We hope and pray for God's blessings upon this Mission and all the missions and branches throughout the Church.

We enjoyed many uplifting remarks by the brethren that followed and also many personal testimonies related by the Saints. Brother Jim Lovalvo then favored us with a beautiful solo, a hymn that he composed himself, "The Red man Sat Proudly." It was, without a doubt, a beautiful way to end a very inspiring and edifying weekend. I'm reminded of one of the letters of Oliver Cowdery referring to the word of God as being like "Apples of Gold in Baskets of Silver."

Thank you Brothers for coming to Dallas. We enjoyed it immensely.

Brother George Benyola
Dallas, Texas

HIS WILL

At times I feel so weary
And often do despair.
I long to be immortal,
Without my mortal cares.

I grasp for higher meaning —
A purpose for my life.
Answers I cannot seem to find,
To satisfy my strife.

Then, suddenly I feel it —
His love from deep within.
I know He'll never fail me,
Though often I fail Him.

The reason for existing
And living day by day,
Is to show His love through me
In everything I say.

Now I see my goal on earth.
My purpose is fulfilled.
All hopes and dreams I give to God.
My life shall be HIS WILL.

Sister Patti Gianfermi
Sterling Heights Branch

THE GOSPEL NEWS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
301 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR
Richard Scaglione

EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS
Joseph Bitteringer
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Lucetta Scaglione

OFFICE STAFF
Betty Eiler
Louise Donkin
Janet Gibson
Ruth E. Palmieri
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION
MANAGER
Chris Collins

GMBA EDITOR
James D. Gibson
401 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS
ARIZONA
Ronald Brutz
P.O. Box 1159
Window Rock, Ariz. 86515

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fla. 33452

OHIO
James Alessio
1413 W. 37th St.
Lorain, Ohio

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Bob Stanek
10090 Aspen Lane
Windsor, Ontario
Canada N8R 2B8

PENNSYLVANIA
Alvin Gehly
R.D. 1
Fredonia, Pa. 16124

BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICE
Sixth and Lincoln Sts.
Monongahela, Pa. 15063
Phone 258-9923

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"The Redemption Plan"

The Christmas Season is a time when we normally mark the anniversary of our Lord's nativity. We are stirring reminded anew of the great love of God for the human family.

Our *Holy Bible* and *Book of Mormon* offer interested readers and lovers of truth many accounts of the various workings of God down through the ages by which He richly and generously manifested His love for His people. However, the most notable example of the outpouring of God's love is His gift to the world of His only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The unbounded generosity of our Heavenly Father in sending forth His Beloved Son to redeem the human family is best and simply summed up in the eloquence of our Lord Jesus Himself as He enlightened Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Plan of Redemption

Thus, very early in His ministry, our Lord made it very plain and so easy to be understood that He was sent into the world to fulfill the plan of redemption as conceived in the mind of His Father. His mission was to bring the lost and fallen people of the world to a saving knowledge of their loving Heavenly Father and God.

The beautiful and ennobling lines penned by Haldor Lillenas and titled "The Mystery of Grace" are most stirring and fitting here:

"Deep within the heart of God before the dawn of time
Formed a mighty plan, a wondrous mystery sublime;
Long before foundations of the universe were laid,
Long before the earth and they that dwell therein were made
We may never know the length and breadth of such a plan,
But we know it brought redemption unto man.

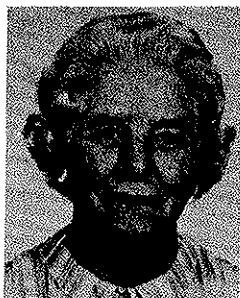
We may not unravel all the mystery of grace
That would cause the Son of God to leave His holy place,
Coming unto earth to suffer death with all its loss,
Laying down His regal crown to bear the shameful cross,
We may never know the length and breadth of such a plan,
But we know it brought redemption unto man.

Oh, the sacred mystery of grace. Can we all its wonder fully trace,
Grace that justice satisfies, Grace that all our need supplies,
Grace divine that can for sin atone;
Grace, God's grace thru which we may draw near
Unto God to serve Him without fear, Thru this holy mystery
We from guilt have been set free, And the sons of God are we
BECAUSE OF GRACE ALONE!"

From the Foundation of the World

In recording his remarkable experiences while an exile on the Isle of Patmos, the Apostle John refers to our Lord as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". (Revelations 13:8)

Let us sing anew in the verse of Isaac Watts: JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME!



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Mary, The Mother Of Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands above all women in history. She is a perfect example of womanhood. Many beautiful names of praise have been bestowed upon her such as "Virgin" and "Handmaid of the Lord". The angel Gabriel said of her, "Blessed art thou among women."

Mary was a humble peasant girl living in Nazareth. An angel came to her and said, "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son and shalt call his name Jesus." Many, many years ago God sent His Son to Mary. God loved her very much to choose her as a mother.

One day Mary and her husband Joseph, went to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. The city was crowded, people were everywhere. Joseph stopped at several places to find a room for the night. All they heard was, "No room! No room!" They were tired and weary, the journey had been long.

At last an inn keeper gave them shelter in a stable. How grateful they were for this. It was quiet, probably the only sounds were from the cattle in the stalls. During the night, baby Jesus was born. His mother wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. A manger is a box like a stall, from which cattle eat their food. What a strange bed for such a precious baby. All this fulfilled prophecy.

Shepherds were on the hillside nearby, watching their sheep. It was a beautiful night. Suddenly a bright light appeared in the sky, and an angel came with a special message from God. At first the shepherds were frightened. The angel said, "Be not afraid. Behold I bring you tidings of great joy." He told about baby Jesus and where they could find him. Then many, many angels appeared in heaven, singing and praising God. The shepherds were amazed. They too, were filled with joy. They started out to find the baby. They came to the stable and found the happy little family. Here was the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, just as the angel had said they would find him. After worshipping him, they went out singing praises and telling all they met the joyful news.

Sincerely,

Sistes Mabel

Have a happy and joyous holiday. Next year I will tell you stories from the Book of Mormon. Hope you enjoy them.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS —

Visitors at Windsor

On August 5, 1979, as we entered our place of worship, we were warmly greeted by Brothers Bob Watson and Dwayne Jordan from Arizona. They were a wonderful surprise.

The previous day we had met in fasting and prayer along with the General Church. Seeing them standing there made us feel that God had acknowledged our prayers. We had prayed for God's power to be manifested in our midst.

God's power need not be strong and forceful. Just knowing that the Brothers brought to us the same theme that our own ministry had been instructing us with, was power. God is dealing with man, from the beginning of time until our present day. It is the time of restoration and the labors are yet to be performed.

We enjoyed Brother Bob Watson's lesson on roots and wings. Roots are where you grow; wings are to take you where you want to go. He reassured us that God will keep His promises unto our fathers. We are beneficiaries of these promises. The Gospel will not go forth amongst His covenant people unless we are pure and free from strife and jealousy. We need to purify ourselves, then we will see miracles performed.

Brother Dwayne followed with these thoughts. The Lord chose a special people, the Hebrews, because of their faith. They made progress when they exercised tremendous faith. They left their possessions to go into an uncertain future. They began to walk towards the Red Sea before it parted, obtaining the Promised Land. They accepted the commands of their leaders. Today there is a need for us to exercise our faith.

Brother Don Collison, in his closing remarks, reassured us how all things will be fulfilled in God's time. Generations of children will receive promises that they will never forget. Therefore, let us leave ourselves open to God's word.

It was another day well spent as we left with a feeling that we had been found in God's grace.

Sister Adrienne Collison

Visitors at Aliquippa Branch

On Saturday, August 25, 1979, the Pennsylvania Area MBA held an evening spiritual meeting at the Aliquippa Branch. We were especially delighted to have with us five carloads from the Sterling Heights Branch and Branch No. 2, Michigan.

The church building filled to capacity, we appropriately began our service by having the Champine brothers sing "Welcome Holy Spirit." Brother Ken Staley, Area President, welcomed everyone and stressed that we had assembled tonight for the purpose of praising God, whether in song, prayer, testimony or preaching.

Brother Robert Nicklow read *Psalms* 100, after which Brother John Ross opened our meeting in prayer. Brother Lou Vitto spoke to us on "unity," using for his text *II Chronicles*, Chapter 7. He also told us many wonderful

experiences they witnessed at the recent California Area MBA Campout because of their united spirit. Brother Lou pointed out the necessity of unity in The Church and even in our homes in order for us to progress. He also stated that each person present should take inventory of their lives and strive to apply themselves to the things of God.

Feeling inspired by God, Brother Lou asked a show of hands of how many had not yet surrendered themselves to the service of God. He then asked if any of these desired prayer. A beautiful spirit filled the building as four young people requested prayer on their behalf.

At one point during our service, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues. Later in the service, Brother Robert Nicklow arose and said that during the speaking of tongues, he felt directed to *Revelations, Chapter 7, Verses 7 through 13*, in which the Apostle John was bidden to write to the church of Philadelphia. This experience was confirmed by Brother Gary Champine. Brother Gary had recently read this portion of scripture and just that afternoon was reminded of it during conversation with his brother.

Many of the Brothers and Sisters bore beautiful testimonies and various selections by the Champine brothers were offered to the Lord as we brought to an end a glorious meeting of fellowship. Brother Richard Scaglione made a few closing remarks. Refreshments were served in the church basement, concluding a wonderful evening of fellowship.

The blessings continued over to our Sunday service. Along with melodious community singing, the Champine brothers sang a few beautiful selections. We can say as the poet says, "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place". Brother Sam DiFalco opened our service. We also heard many wonderful words from our other visiting Elders, Brothers Jim Campbell, John Ali and Lou Vitto.

We truly enjoyed all that was said and the songs that were sung. It was well worth being in the house of God and hearing these well-versed Brothers preaching the word of God. May God bless their works as they endeavor to cause people to come to the reckoning of their soul's salvation.

Sister Dora Rossi
Branch Editor

Evangelist Meetings in Tucson, Arizona

The Tucson Branch welcomed two evangelists from the California District. It was the weekend of the 11th of November, 1979 when Brothers George Heaps and Thomas Liberto traveled a great distance along with Sister Marcia Liberto and their son, Tom.

An intimate meeting consisting of mostly Tucson members worshipped on Friday evening at a local bank's community room. The room became the Tabernacle of the Lord for a few hours as the Brothers presented a message of hope and encouragement to the Saints. Brother George spoke on the subject of establishment of The Church, the falling away, and the Restoration. He noted how many were forced into martyrdom but gave their testimonies in spite of their imminent executions. He pointed out how Peter had written a letter to them encouraging them to hold on to the Gospel with a bright hope. He remarked

that we, too, must share the Gospel. Brother Tom examined the lives of the sons of Mosiah. He shared with us a recent experience where the message of the Lord came in a meeting of The California Conference saying that God would send out his servants like the sons of Mosiah were sent out. He described their preparation of fasting, prayer, diligent searching of the scriptures, and preaching with authority to convert souls to Christ.

Sunday morning services were held in the community building normally rented by the Tucson Branch. Many visitors from Phoenix and San Carlos attended as well as Brother Joe and Sister Jean Ciarolla and daughter, Pam, from Modesto, California. The small Branch of Tucson regularly has about twenty in attendance, but today our congregation expanded in excess of fifty-five. This was a great upliftment to the Saints in this locale.

Again the guest preachers exhorted the congregation to greater service to God. Brother Tom spoke of God the Father as He continually calls out to His children with love and concern for their eternal welfare. He related how God also called to him even though he stubbornly attempted to "do it his own way" without God's help until finally he was forced to call upon God in an emergency. God answered quickly in sparing Brother Tom's life, and Brother Tom also responded rapidly by rendering obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ the following Sunday. Brother George encouraged us to put on the appearance of Christ: a smile, a holy kiss, a firm, sincere handshake, a loving greeting and "God bless you," and an overall happy countenance. He urged us to be free to witness about this Gospel and God's blessings to us.

Brother Joe Ciarola expressed how he had found a blessing in the cluster; the same cluster spoken of by Isaiah the Prophet. He testified to the many blessings, experiences, and healings which have been in his and his family's lives. Many trials have come his way as well, but they have served to strengthen his faith.

Following the preaching, several members testified. We felt a special blessing to hear the praise of Sister Anita Hopkins of San Carlos, Arizona. She witnessed to the great difficulty she experienced when the doctors confronted her with the fact that part of her leg must be amputated. Agonizing over the outcome, she saw that it might be a means to seeing her children draw nigh unto God as they were forced to assist their mother and pray with her for her recovery. Surely many of the Church are infirm and need a healing of God.

The blessings of God were in our midst as we culminated the weekend with a beautifully prepared potluck buffet dinner. The Saints fellowshiped and finally departed, reluctantly.

We thank those who made the great effort to visit the Tucson Branch for we will always appreciate the blessings, teachings, and testimonies they brought to us. We welcome all visitors to come and spend some time with us in this winter haven of the Southwest.

Modesto Branch News

Sunday, August 19, 1979, the Modesto Branch was honored to have visitors from Sterling Heights, Mich., Niles, Ohio, and Phoenix, Ariz. The visitors from Sterling Heights were Brother Louis Vitto, his wife Sister Shirley,

and their daughter and son Karen and Greg. From Niles, we had Sister Carolyn Martorana, and from Phoenix Brother Barry Mazzeo, his wife Sister Nancy and their daughter Michelle.

We started out the meeting with hymns "My Savior's Love" and "Brighten The Corner Where You Are". Brother Barry Mazzeo sang "He Touched Me," Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened in prayer. Brother Louis Vitto spoke on how we each have to take a little time out to do something good for the Lord. He used Romans 8 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit".

The congregation sang "Do You Know My Jesus?" Brother Barry was our next speaker. In his sermon, he said, "We have no where to turn, but to the Lord".

Brother Joe Lovalvo got up and spoke of an experience.

We felt that the Lord was with our Brothers in all that they said. We sang "His Name Is Wonderful".

The meeting was then left open to testimony. Many Brothers and Sisters felt to thank God for all that He has blessed them with.

The congregation sang hymns "I Will Serve Thee" and "Willing To Take The Cross" as sacrament was passed.

Our Spanish group sang "I Don't Care To Be Separated From The Lord".

Brother Joe Lovalvo spoke a few minutes in Spanish, directing his words to our Spanish-speaking members.

We sang "We're Marching To Zion" and Brother Louis Parravanno closed in prayer.

In the evening, we joined together again, our visitors still being in our presence. We had a meeting, and afterwards Brother Jim Dulisse showed us slides taken of the California campout. We had refreshments and a good time talking with one another.

We'd like to thank the Lord for our visitors, and this day, because it truly was a blessing. We have felt that the BEAUTIFUL spirit at our California campout, held just recently, is still lingering on and we pray that it is here to stay. Of course, WE have to make it happen.

Also, we'd like to give thanks for the calling of baptism to Sister Peggy Randy. She was baptized by Brother Mark Randy, August 12th at the California campout.

I know that I, as well as many others who attended California campout this year, want very much to THANK GOD for the wonderful spirit He gave to us all. I'm at a loss for words when trying to explain the feeling that was given to us. The Brothers and Sisters seem to have a new love for each other, and this is wonderful.

All of my love,

Sister Pam Cole (Ciarolla)
Modesto Branch Editor

Special Occasion at San Diego

The San Diego Branch commemorated the spiritual birthdays of 10 members on March 4, 1979, each of them having 50 years or more of service in the Gospel.



They were honored with a cake and individual acknowledgement of their dedicated service. Each of these members gave a testimony to the honor and glory of God for keeping them faithful to the Gospel for so many years.

From the San Diego Branch, they are:

Sister Anna Ciccatti, baptized May 9, 1920,
Brother Domenic Castelli, baptized Feb. 14, 1921,
Sister Jenny Castelli, baptized Feb. 14, 1921,
Brother Jim Velardi, baptized August 27, 1922,
Sister Jeanette Velardi, baptized Dec. 5, 1922
Sister Bernadina Thomas, baptized Nov. 2, 1924
Brother John Dulisse, baptized Nov. 2, 1924
Brother Mike Coppa, baptized May 23, 1926
Sister Pauline Dulisse, baptized March 3, 1926.

From Detroit, Branch No. 4:

Brother Jim Aquilino, baptized Sept. 11, 1927.

It was a great blessing for all who were present. We hope that God will continue to bless and watch over our elderly Brothers and Sisters.

Sister Jeri Dulisse
Branch Editor

Teacher Ordained In San Fernando Valley

On August 19, 1979, we were blessed to have Brother Tony Picciuto and his family visiting our Branch. Sister Susan Krasnasky, who was baptized at the California Area MBA Campout the previous weekend, and Brother Enos Genaro sang a duet. Brother Picciuto led us in singing "I'll Walk With His Hand In Mine", followed by "Take My Life and Let It Be."

Brother Tony read portions of the Book of *Nephi* and *Ephesians, Chapter 4*. He spoke of the tree of life and how beautiful it is to partake of it and how we must hold on to the rod of iron to go through life. Jesus said "greater things shall ye do than I have done", and we can, if we persevere by keeping our eyes on the tree of life and holding on to the rod of iron. He concluded by saying success in The Church comes from obedience, faithfulness and perseverance in serving God.

We sang "My God and I". Brother Edmund Buccellato related to Brother Emmett Hood the story of Gideon. Brother John Azzinaro followed by reading to Brother Emmett the duties of being a Teacher in The Church. Brother Enos Genaro then washed Brother Em-

Emmett's feet as we sang "Ye Who Are Called to Labor". Brother John Azzinaro ordained Brother Emmett, after which Brother Emmett gave his testimony and asked that we remember him in prayer that God may be with him in his calling.

The meeting continued with testimonies, and many Brothers and Sisters were anointed.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Virginia Surprenant

P.S.: Since Brother Emmett's calling as a Teacher, he has been called into the Priesthood and will be ordained on November 18. May God be with him, and may he continue to be a blessing to our Branch.

Lindsay-Modesto Calif. Youth Retreat

With much gratitude in our hearts, we want to thank God for the weekend of July 20-22nd. To say that we had a good time, would be an understatement.

Two car loads of young people from the Modesto Branch met with Lindsay's young people in the Sequoia National Forest, Friday evening. Chaperones, Brother Tony Picciuto and his wife Sister Lydia Picciuto, were very much a part of the youth group. Together, we all had a great time, spiritually and naturally. A special thanks to Brother and Sister Picciuto for giving their time and effort in organizing the retreat.

By early Saturday morning, everyone had arrived. We started the day with a seminar, which Brother Tony did a good job in relating to the young people and what they are facing in the world today. After lunch, we all took a little hike (another understatement) to the mountain tops in beautiful Sequoia. There, some were inspired to pray. By the time we arrived to where we began our hike from, we were all very tired, to say the least. But this fatigue did not stop us, we went on to have a great time after that evening. A big part of the evening was spent inside a cabin singing praises to God. I could tell, we all felt blessed in this.

Sunday morning came. I awoke at 5:30 (which is very unusual to me!) and could not fall back asleep. I couldn't wait for everyone else to wake up, I had the feeling that today we would receive a tremendous blessing — and we did.

Our service was held in the woods, with the beauty of God's creation surrounding us. Using tree stumps and logs for pews, the Lord poured out His blessings. Although Brother Tony did not preach to us, we heard the word of God. Each of the young people selected something from the scriptures that meant something special to them individually. The Lord showed us how He works. Each of the young people read something and told how they felt about it. After we had heard everyone, the last one to be heard was Sister Anita Picciuto. By this time, we were all aware of God's presence. To add to the blessings, Sister Anita told us that she had selected the same scriptures as 4 other people in the group. We know that this was not a coincidence. Needless to say, the meeting was beautiful.

After lunch we all prepared to leave for home. Before we left, we closed in prayer thanking God and asking

Him for a safe journey home. He was gracious and we arrived home safely.

I want to thank the Lindsay Branch for making this weekend possible, and thank God for making THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST possible.

With love in Christ,

Sister Pam Cole (Ciarolla)
Modesto Branch Editor

Baptism At Greensburg, Pa.

Carolyn Ruth Henderson was prompted to ask for her baptism during the Saturday evening meeting of the General Church Conference in Greensburg, Pa., on October 20, 1979.

Early the next morning, Sunday, October 21, she was baptized by Brother Dwayne Jordan. She was later confirmed by Brother Kenneth Wright during the Conference meeting.

May the Lord bless our new Sister and make her a blessing and help to her home Branch at Windsor, Ontario.

From Branch 2, Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to recommend a great trip to you, full of blessings both spiritual and natural. Next August, make arrangements to visit the Hill Cumorah Pageant in Palmyra, New York on a Saturday night and then plan to fellowship with the Saints in Rochester or Lockport the following Sunday. Fourteen people of all ages from Branch 2, Detroit, Mich. did just that and had such a great time they felt like packing and going back the next weekend.

First on our list was a brief tour of the house where Joseph Smith and his wife Emma lived at the time he was working with Oliver Cowdery to transcribe the golden plates. Across the road was the grove where the Angel Moroni appeared to Joseph and told him what his mission was to be. It was twilight, so we hurried to the Pageant on the hillside of Cumorah. What a thrill to know we were truly near the spot where the Lord performed such a marvelous work and wonder so many years ago!

At the Hill Cumorah we were excited to see thousands and thousands of hungry souls soaking up the performances of various scenes from the Restoration story and Book of Mormon. There was even a small group of deaf people there on the sidelines whose interpreter was using sign language to explain the words we could hear so clearly. Costumes and colors were vivid and the scene showing the destruction at the time of Christ's crucifixion shook the earth. It was a performance, informative, convincing, and well worth a long nine and a half hour drive.

Spiritually, we were rewarded for our trip when we gathered with our Brothers and Sisters in the Rochester Branch to worship on Sunday. For many, there were all new acquaintances made; yet, for others of our older Brothers and Sisters, it was a wonderful time of renewing old friendships. For our Brother Joseph Straccia it was

like a visit home, since he'd come as a young man from Michigan to plaster that beautiful little church.

Our meeting was opened by the Michigan group visitors singing, "He Looked Beyond My Fault." Brother Ansel D'Amico opened in prayer and then asked Sister Anita Behr of Michigan to sing, "Just As I Am." What a sweet, sweet spirit fell over us. Thank God for all His beautiful people.

Our Brother spoke concerning the Restoration and admonished us never to refuse the Lord's calling as there may never be another time. He also shared with us many beautiful experiences that his father, Brother Ishmael D'Amico, had while establishing The Church many years ago in Sopris, Colorado. He related how an entire congregation of another church was led by the Holy Spirit to join under the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. We continued with an uplifting testimony meeting and were reluctant to close. Brother Joseph Straccia was called on to close in prayer and we were invited to partake of a delicious lunch. Brother John D'Amico was kind enough to guide our van through the city and we were on our way home, sorry to leave our dear ones, yet filled with peaceful joy. The Lord had truly blessed us!

Your Sisters in Christ,

Yvonne Lambert, Janet Steinrock

Baptism At Brooklyn, N. Y. Branch

Sunday, July 29 proved to be a day of blessing and experience for the Saints and all in attendance at the services.

As Brother Dominick Rose led Stephanie Ann Winkler to the baptismal site in the waters, Sister Rose Laessig saw a beautiful, bright light surrounding them and a figure standing behind them while he was performing the baptism. Surely, this was a blessing to all.

She was later confirmed by Brother Frank Zaher. May the Lord bless our new Sister and make her a blessing in her Branch and to others.

Clairton Branch News

On April 8, 1979, Annette Ruth Harris was baptized in the Monongahela River by Presiding Elder, English Webb. She was confirmed by Brother Joseph Austin.

Brother Fred Hale was baptized into The Church by Brother Joseph Austin on July 14, 1979 and confirmed by Brother English Webb.

Two children were also blessed recently — Bernard Clark III and Orlando Timothy Evans.

Open Air Revival at Sterling Heights

September 14, 15 and 16, our Branch held an open air revival in the church parking lot. Brother John Buffa designed the sign shown on the above picture. This sign was an open invitation to passersby and to the people in the neighborhood to come and join with us in these meetings.



This revival was not without opposition. As our young people canvassed the nearby area, passing out flyers and knocking on doors, some had the door slammed in their face. In one incident, a man who had been drinking, challenged one of our Elders, threatening to run him off the block. On Wednesday and Thursday nights, our members met at the church and united themselves in fervent prayer that this revival would be a success, that God would be with us and bless us and that He would hold back the rain that pelted us on these two nights. United we stand, divided we fall, as said by Abraham Lincoln, has become our motto in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Some of our young men worked in the parking lot on these two nights in the rain, setting up the lights and otherwise preparing the site for our services. Brother David DiBattista was praying that God would give these Brothers a sign as they worked and he and Brother Claude Champine saw a white dove circle the lot. This was a great blessing to them.

On Friday night, the weather was clear but cold, however, the cold did not cool our enthusiasm. We enjoyed singing songs of praise led by Brother Frank Conti. The Champine brothers sang "Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome" along with other selections. Brother Joe Milantoni was our guest speaker. He said this was a wonderful way of spreading the Gospel in the area. He asked that the Holy Ghost be made evident. He spoke from Acts 8. He said it is a beautiful experience as we walk with Christ on a one to one basis. We might be known on this earth by a Social Security number, but we are not known as a number in the sight of God, we are each one an individual. Christ will call us by name when we enter into His realm. We do not live by the philosophy of man, but the philosophy of Christ. Through this revival, we hope to become a new creature, and it has to start within the heart of each one of us.

On Saturday night, two of our members were prayed upon and Brother Louis Vitto then told the congregation of the things that had transpired in our preparations for these meetings.

Our guest speaker for this evening was Brother Paul Vitto. He explained why man must die. Because of the sin in the Garden of Eden, death was pronounced upon man. He read from the 22nd Chapter of Revelations. He said that Jesus came that we may have the opportunity to love and to serve Him. We can enter into heaven only through the door and the door is Jesus Christ. As we read in our papers, hear and see on our televisions, it is made clear that the second coming of Christ is near.

storms, floods, killings, these are only the beginning of sorrows to come. Brother John Buffa continued, telling of God's goodness to mankind. He sent His Son that we might be redeemed. Brother John read from the 17th Chapter of Matthew, about the transfiguration and how Peter wanted to build a church for Moses and Elijah, but Christ said the church must be built upon the rock. He related how the Gospel was withdrawn from the earth because of the iniquity of man, and how the Gospel was restored.

Sister Diane Hawkins sang two selections, the Champine brothers sang and an eleven year old child, Daphne Florian, sang, "I Won't Have to Worry Anymore." She sang beautifully and without accompaniment. We were dismissed by Brother Tullio LaCivita.

Sunday morning dawned beautiful, warm, and filled with sunshine. All the Branches in the area, were represented. Sister Diane Hawkins sang, "All My Days", the Champine brothers sang and Brother Steve sang a solo, "Then I Heard The Master Say." Brother Spencer Everett opened the meeting, speaking from Acts 2:1-4 and various other parts of this book. He told of how the disciples in the Upper Room were in one accord. He spoke of the woman at the well and Christ's words to her. We must not be satisfied just being a well, we must strive for a river of living water. God has prepared a way for each of us to touch others. The point of agreement is the place of power. He told of Peter and John telling the crippled man to look upon them and the man was healed and went about praising God. We must not be afraid to step out and speak to others. We sometimes become discouraged when things are not going well with us, but we must ask God to reveal something more to us. With the spirit within us, all things can be accomplished. The promise that God gave to those in the Upper Room applies to us today. When we step out in faith, God will fill us with so much love we might even put our own life in jeopardy. We cannot live for Christ until we are ready to die for Him. God tries us, gives us tribulations until such time as we can receive faith and patience. We must lay everything at the feet of Jesus. God has a plan for us; that plan is to represent Him and He will live within us. He will take command if we but give our life to Him. What the water misses, the fire will get, we must first be cleansed, made like a mighty river, then we will receive the baptism of fire. God promised to be with us until the end of time. He has something in store for us but we have to look for it. We must build upon the Rock, that Rock being Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "I will be to you exactly what you need." What do you need today? God plants the seed inside us, it must be watered and fed if it is to grow. We must not expect to get a blessing, we must plan to give a blessing. We are the body of Jesus Christ. God placed all power under the feet of Jesus Christ; what He has in store for us, it is impossible to fathom.

Brother Dominic Moraco said that through Christ's hanging on the cross, it was made possible for Him to draw people to Him. The words of Jesus were fulfilled when the hundred and twenty met on the Day of Pentecost. The beauty of Christ is outlined in the first three chapters of Acts, as portrayed by Brother Spencer. Christ did not say, "Believe and you will be saved." He said, "Repent and be baptized, be born again of the water and the spirit and be blessed by the Holy Ghost." We do not go back to our former life when we receive baptism, we lead a new life. We lose all desire for sinful things. The first fruits of repentance is baptism. We have to walk in

a newness of life. God is pleased with us today, the Gospel was brought outdoors. If we become a servant of Jesus Christ, we need never be ashamed. We must let the world know and be proud to serve Him. We might fall, but we will rise again. Brother Moraco told the youth to serve the Lord now, there is nothing out in the world for them, it is only here that they will receive peace, happiness and tranquility.

Brother Louis Vitto said until we experience baptism, we have not received the glory of His Holy Spirit. He asked those who wished to commit their lives to Christ now, or at some future time, to raise their hands. Several hands were uplifted. Sister Arlene Whitton played, "There is Something About That Name" as Brother Lou read the poem, "Footprints In The Sand." He then said, "God is here today to heal our soul and body, to forgive us and to lift us up. How can we turn this Jesus away, He who gave His life on Calvary."

We sang, "He Touched Me" and were dismissed by Brother Paul Whitton.

We met again for the night service. The teenagers sang, "He's Everything To Me" and, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul."

Brother Lou Vitto asked those who were here for the first time to please come back again. He said he wanted to involve the congregation in the service tonight. He asked that we be concerned about our soul's salvation.

Brother Louis Pietrangelo offered prayer. Sister Diane Hawkins again sang for us and Daphne Florian sang her song, "I Won't Have To Worry Anymore."

Brother Sam DiFalco told us of how some of the Brothers met in the church early this morning and had prayer together. Brother Sam then read from Matthew 16:15-19, how Jesus told the disciples that He was the Son of God. He read the beliefs of the Church. He then said, Jesus is the rock on which this Church is built. Brother Sam wants God to be satisfied with him, and we should all pray that God is satisfied with us.

Brother Paul Whitton asked, "What is a Revival?" It is a time for us to praise God and to again revive that spirit that we had when we were at the waters. He read Psalms 117 and 138. As we praise the Lord, another may be helped. As we testify, we ourselves may be revived, others may benefit from it.

Brother Bennie Di Pronio was asked to sing, but he first gave his testimony. He told how attending these meetings had given him a stronger desire to serve God. He sang, "Blessed Assurance." Brother Louis Vitto then said, "When we have a need, all we have to do is to become humble and submit ourselves to the Lord."

The Champine brothers sang a song written by Brother Larry, "I Owe It All To Jesus." Then each of the Brothers gave their testimony, each one within itself, a message. They told of how they used to play at nightclubs, weddings and other places, but they were never really at peace until they met this Church. One of our members told this writer that she had the opportunity to hear the boys sing when they were in the world, but their voice did not have the beauty and clarity in it that it has now.

Brother Louis Vitto said, "As this revival closes tonight, we must all feel that we are a little closer to the Lord. Ask the Lord what He will have us do. We must continue to pray to have God keep us in unity."

We sang, "What a Savior", but it was almost impossible to dismiss. People kept coming forward to be prayed upon for various reasons. It was with a feeling of sadness as the meeting was brought to an end with prayer by Brother Tony Gerace.

To this writer, it was like being at Mars Hill as the Apostle Paul spoke, or being under the stars as Jesus taught His disciples and spoke to the multitude. It was something different for us, a new experience and I am sure everyone who attended, went away with the feeling that it was good to be here. There were several strangers among us who came as a result of the young people visiting them at their homes and inviting them to come visit with us. We pray that they had a taste of what we have and will come back and enjoy the full menu.

Sister Hazel E. Zoltek
Branch Editor

Visitors At Branch No. 1

On September 23, 1979 Detroit Branch No. 1 had the privilege of having Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and their children spend the day with us.

Brother Nephi opened the service. He used as his text 3rd Nephi, the 19th Chapter.

In his opening remarks he stated that during their two year stay in Africa they noticed that many things here had changed. He spoke of preparation and the effort we need to make to prepare ourselves so God may use us when He so wills. He asked the questions, "De we know who we really are?" and "Are we who we thing we are?" He admonished us to create a spiritual atmosphere in our Branches conducive to attracting and holding our young people. Reliance on the Spirit of God is essential.

Brother Nephi told an experience where he was sitting in a conference in Nigeria, unable to speak their language or to understand what they were discussing. He was then asked to speak to them. He stated that in his talk to them he talked about the things they were discussing. They asked him how he had known what they were discussing? He told them it was no secret and that language was no barrier to the "Holy Spirit". He admonished the congregation at Branch No. 1, "You may think you're handicapped, however, if you have the Holy Spirit, you are not."

He further explained that he used to pray that God would help him to do something. He realized that something wasn't right. Reading the word of God he realized that he should pray for God to "strengthen him". It's the Lord's strength, not our ability that gets things done. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me." He had to change his manner of praying. The message was a very encouraging one.

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine as they continue to follow through with the Lord's work.

Sister Diane Everett
Branch Editor

— NEW ARRIVALS —

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new members of their families. New arrivals have been as follows:

Trenton to Robert and Mary Duncan of San Fernando Valley, California.

— WEDDINGS —

CLARK - PETTYJOHN

Mr. Bernard Clark, Jr. and Miss Catherine Pettyjohn were united in marriage on July 7, 1979 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Clairton, Pennsylvania.

Brother English Webb officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were rendered by Sister Madeline Robinson, soloist and Mrs. Asaline Peterson, organist.

UDOSEN - MALETTA

Mr. Monday Udosen and Miss Tirana Alyson Maletta were wed on June 16, 1979 at the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother English Webb officiated at the ceremony.

ANDRUCIOLLI - KRASNASKY

Brother Daniel Andruciolli of Detroit, Branch No. 3 and Sister Susan Krasnasky of the San Fernando Valley Branch were united in marriage in California on September 1, 1979 by Brother Frank Genaro. Brother Edmund Buccellato assisted in the wedding ceremony.

Sister Alyse Molisani, soloist, was accompanied at the piano by Brother Tony DeCaro. The newlyweds will make their home in Detroit, Michigan.

● OBITUARIES ●

GORDON VERNON GREEN

Brother Gordon Vernon Green of the Six Nations Reservation Mission passed away very peacefully to his reward on August 31, 1979. He was born on January 15, 1916. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 2, 1970 by Brother Norman Campitelle.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Eva Green, one brother, one sister, four sons and three daughters. The services were officiated by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalo, Kenneth Wright and Norman Campitelle. He will be greatly missed by all the Six Nations Reservation Mission Brothers and Sisters.